

Herald Tribune

INTERNATIONAL

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Paris, Friday, November 27, 1998

No. 35,999

The World's Daily Newspaper

Politicians In U.K. Get Tug-of-War On Pinochet

Government Cautious About Extradition Case As Chile Seeks Release

By Warren Hoge
New York Times Service

LONDON — General Augusto Pinochet's effort to escape extradition to Spain and a possible mass-murder trial moved into the political arena Thursday, with the British government facing the decision of whether to go forward with the diplomatically volatile case.

Home Secretary Jack Straw requested a weeklong extension, until mid-December, of the deadline by which he must authorize moving the Spanish petition for extradition forward or let the 63-year-old former dictator return home to Chile.

The Chilean Embassy delivered written arguments for the release of General Pinochet to the Home Office, and Foreign Minister Jose Miguel Insulza of Chile was flying to London from Santiago for a Friday morning meeting with Robin Cook, the foreign secretary.

Holding to a government line, Mr. Cook said he stressed to his Chilean counterpart that the extradition process was judicial, not political. Mr. Straw, for his part, said he would be acting in a "quasi-judicial" role.

The Law Lords of the House of Lords, England's highest court, set the stage for Britain's deepening involvement in the case Wednesday by ruling that General Pinochet did not enjoy sovereign immunity from arrest under British law. The ruling, an unexpected reversal of a lower court decision last month, was hailed by human rights groups and a number of European governments as an advance in international law and a warning to dictators that they could not escape punishment for abuses in office. Critics denounced it as a reckless extension of authority across national boundaries that could encourage prosecutors to try to extradite prominent figures such as Queen Elizabeth II or President Bill Clinton on their travels abroad.

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Thousands Mourn Slain Iranian Dissident

The son of Dariush Forouhar, Arash, consoling his sister, Parastou, at their father's funeral in Tehran on Thursday. Tens of thousands, some chanting anti-government slogans, turned out to mourn the murdered opposition leader. The bodies of Mr. Forouhar and his wife were found in their home Sunday. Page 12.

Tempest at Tokyo Summit

Wartime Memories Trip Up China-Japan Talks

By Nicholas D. Kristof
New York Times Service

TOKYO — Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi apologized Thursday to President Jiang Zemin of China for Japan's World War II conduct, but the two countries immediately became entangled in an uproar about the wartime memories that still haunt relations between the two great powers of East Asia.

Mr. Jiang is the first Chinese head of state ever to visit Japan, and the five-day trip had been intended as a milestone in the process of healing the suspicions between the two countries. Instead, the meeting of the two leaders on Thursday seemed to inflame the antagonisms.

The upshot was that instead of focusing on the Asian economic crisis or the risks of war on the Korean Peninsula, the summit meeting has been caught up in disputes about events of half a century ago. Once again, the main force shaping East Asia's future has turned out to be its past.

Officials from both sides played down the disagreement, emphasizing that Mr. Jiang and Mr. Obuchi had agreed on a wide range of important issues, from environmental cooperation to youth exchanges. But a joint declaration by the two leaders was delayed for more than five hours, and in an unusual move it was released without being signed by anyone.

Mr. Jiang had wanted two concessions from Mr. Obuchi: a clear-cut written apology to the Chinese people for



President Jiang Zemin lending an ear to Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi on Thursday after the two leaders signed a youth-exchange pact in Tokyo.

World War II behavior by Japan, similar to the apology Japan gave South Korea last month, and a pledge about relations with Taiwan similar to the "three noes" statement by President Bill Clinton to China during the U.S. leader's visit earlier this year. Japan rebuffed Mr. Jiang on both counts, instead offering an oral apology for the war.

"For the Japan-China relationship to develop further in the future, it is necessary to face up to the past squarely,"

Mr. Obuchi told Mr. Jiang. "There was an unfortunate relationship between Japan and China for a certain period in the past."

"The Japanese government expresses once again its remorse and apology to China on this occasion," Mr. Obuchi added.

Akiyaka Saiki, Prime Minister Obuchi's spokesman, said that Mr. Jiang had

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With 400 Days Left to Fix the Millennium Bug, It's Crunch Time

By Tom Buerkle
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — When the year 2000 computer problem gained wide recognition a couple of years ago, the first reaction was disbelief that a computer's inability to distinguish 2000 from 1900 could seriously disrupt modern life.

Subsequently, companies and governments scrambled to fix the problem. Billions of dollars were spent on computer upgrades, old software, and test data to ensure that systems would work. But with only 400 days to go to 2000, there is a growing realization that time is quickly running out.

So today, governments and industry no longer talk simply about fixing the millennium bug. They

are actively preparing contingency plans to keep vital operations going as best as they can if and when problems arise.

"At this point in time, we can say with assurance there are people who aren't going to make it," said Michael Powell, a commissioner at the U.S. Federal Communications Commission.

"We're definitely past the period of where you're going to solve the problem. We're into mitigation."

The new emphasis on anticipating failures reflects the unprecedented nature of the year 2000 problem. The pervasiveness of technology and the complexity of supply chains can cause problems to



RETOOLING FOR THE YEAR 2000
An occasional series.

cascade through the global economy, disrupting business activity, communications and transportation networks, and basic services like power and water.

While multinational companies and banks appear well-prepared, many government agencies and companies, especially small businesses, are behind schedule or have yet to address the problem.

"We may be ready," said Max Rens, chief information officer of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. But, he added, referring to Europe's patchwork of air-traffic control systems, "we can't fly if they are not ready."

The steps being taken range from the mundane,

like restocking forms to be able to revert to paper if computerized order systems fail, to the strategic, such as finding alternative suppliers of parts or stockpiling raw materials and finished goods, which companies like Unilever are considering.

American and British authorities are drawing up plans for police and emergency services to respond to widespread disruptions or civil unrest.

Even the U.S. Federal Reserve has gotten into action, ordering the printing of an extra \$50 billion of notes in case consumers hoard cash ahead of the millennium bug weekend.

"Contingency planning should be considered a legitimate exercise and not an admission that you

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AGENDA

UN Food Agency Says Hunger Worsens Throughout World

ROME (Reuters) — The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization said Thursday that the number of chronically hungry people in the world was rising and that the Asian financial crisis could spell even more pain for the poor.

The Rome-based agency, which in 1996 was host to a World Food Summit that aimed to halve the number of hungry people by 2015, said in an annual State of Food and Agriculture Report that the number of severely undernourished people in developing countries rose to 828 million in 1994-96, from 822 million in 1990-92.

The overall percentage of malnourished people as a part of the world population inched down to 19 percent from 20 percent over the period, but that slight improvement was nevertheless too small to compensate for population growth.

"Recent trends give no room for complacency as progress in some regions has been more than offset by a deterioration in others," the agency said in the report.

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DEADLY ACCIDENT — Rescuers searching the wreckage Thursday after two trains collided, killing at least 108, in the Indian state of Punjab. Page 4.

Exxon and Mobil Discuss Deal to Create Oil Giant

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Exxon Corp. and Mobil Corp., split apart nearly 90 years ago by antitrust regulators, are discussing a merger that would create the world's premier energy business, people familiar with the deal said Thursday.

Exxon, the biggest U.S. oil company, and Mobil, the second-biggest, would have about 22 percent of the U.S. gasoline market and refine more oil than any company in the world.

The two companies would not comment on the talks or the price, but sources put the value of the deal at \$61 billion.

The combined company "would be the best, bar none, global oil concern," said Fadel Gheit, an analyst at Falmestock & Co. in New York.

On Wednesday, Mobil shares rose 4.6 percent, or \$3.4375, to \$78.375 on speculation it would be bought. Exxon closed unchanged at \$72.6875. U.S. markets were closed Thursday for the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

Any union would reunite two parts of John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil

Trust, which the U.S. Supreme Court broke up in 1911.

Exxon was then known as Standard Oil of New Jersey, and Mobil consisted of two companies: Standard Oil of New York and Vacuum Oil.

"This one stroke could reconstitute more than half of the value of the Standard Oil trust when it was broken up,"

OPEC ministers fail to reach deal on further cuts in output. Page 13

said Ronald Chernow, a historian and author of the best-seller "Titan: The Life of John D. Rockefeller Sr."

Consequently, any plan to merge the oil giants would get close scrutiny from regulators. The U.S. Federal Trade Commission may require the two to sell some refining operations, fuel stations and pipelines to prevent unfair competition, said Steve Newborn, an antitrust lawyer with Rogers & Wells.

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Blair Makes Historic Plea Before Irish Parliament

By James F. Clarity
New York Times Service

DUBLIN — Speaking as the first British prime minister ever to address the Irish Republic Parliament, Tony Blair said Thursday that centuries of British-Irish hostility and war had ended and that London and Dublin must now rescue the stalled Northern Ireland peace effort.

Mr. Blair, addressing a joint session of the Seanad, or Senate, and the Dail, or lower house, received several ovations, one when he said, "So much shared history, so much shared pain. And now the shared hope of a new beginning."

The event was covered live by Irish national television, another in the increasing efforts of Ireland and Britain to become closer. The Irish president, Mary McAleese, has visited Queen Elizabeth II in London. The queen's husband, Prince Philip, visited Dublin two weeks ago.

The queen is widely expected to become the first British monarch to visit southern Ireland since it won independence after an insurrection in the early 1920s.

Many of the 226 Irish lawmakers smiled as Mr. Blair spoke a line of Gaelic, and as he talked nostalgically of his Irish roots.

"It is a cementing of the close friendly relationship between the two governments," said Brian Farrell, Irish television's senior commentator.

Mr. Blair had spent Wednesday in Belfast talking to the leaders of the main Northern Ireland parties. In his address Thursday, saying the peace effort was "at a difficult juncture," he urged a solution to the problems blocking the enactment of the provisions of the Northern Ireland peace agreement approved in the spring.

He alluded to the basic obstacle, the dispute over disarmament of the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Irish Republican Army in the predominantly Protestant British province of Northern Ireland.

See BLAIR, Page 6

French Charity: A Weak Culture of Giving in the Land of Fraternity

By Charles Truheart
Washington Post Service

PARIS — An unseasonably cold temperature claimed the lives of eight homeless people here this week and shelters were crisscrossed by capacity. French leaders issued public appeals for vigilance and compassion. But what might sound like boilerplate elsewhere carried a pointed message here about civic responsibility and the stubborn limits of France's trademark fraternity. "Every French person should feel

personally concerned," President Jacques Chirac gently reminded his people, while Marine Aubry, the Socialist government's minister of employment and solidarity, was quite explicit in anticipating what French people might be telling themselves.

"All does not depend on the state or the mayor," she said. "Much can also depend on [yourself]. There's no point in shedding crocodile tears. Everyone can do something to make things better."

France's extensive web of social protections and its people's historic faith in the state to take care of the dispossessed (and everyone else) have made the French far less inclined than their neighbors in Britain and Ireland, or than Americans and Canadians, to take matters of charity and philanthropy in their own hands.

Parisians give to panhandlers on the street or in subway cars, and the French respond generously to faraway human-

itarian disasters like Rwanda's or natural calamities like Hurricane Mitch. But the culture of individual giving to church, school, symphony or soup kitchen has never flourished here to the degree that it has in what the French call Anglo-Saxon societies, by which they mean English-speaking ones.

According to a recent study, the French citizen gives, on average, approximately 15 percent of his annual taxable income to nonprofit organiza-

tions. The figure in neighboring Germany, according to the same study, is twice that. In the United States, it is eight times larger, about 1.2 percent of income.

Richard Van Ham, an American-born accountant in Paris, is always struck by a paradox when he prepares tax returns: "The French are good socialists, but they are lousy philanthropists. Amer-

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Stuff a Turkey? Americans Prefer to Stuff Themselves

By Sharon Walsh
Washington Post Service

NEW YORK — Keith Eldridge is one of the people who made the traditional Thanksgiving scene come to life here: men and women loading ready-to-eat turkeys with all the trimmings into limousines, cars or taxis on the way home from the deli, grocery or caterer. "Busy? I've never been so busy in my life!" Mr. Eldridge, executive chef at El's Vinegar Factory, said Thursday

as he shouted orders to employees preparing Thanksgiving dishes.

Four years ago, when this gourmet food store on the posh Upper East Side began offering cooked turkeys and prepared side dishes that New Yorkers could pick up or have delivered, it had 60 orders. This year, it had 450.

And New Yorkers were not alone. Of the 45 million turkey dinners at the center of Thanksgiving rituals around the United States this year, 13 percent included dishes not prepared by home-

cooks who rose at dawn to stuff the turkey, whip the potatoes and bake the pies, according to the Grocery Manufacturers of America. "This is the Thanksgiving of the future," said Vivian Deuschel, a vice president at Ritz-Carlton Hotel Co. "You leave it to the professionals."

New York, culinary experts say, is the ultimate city for takeout and delivery. The kitchen — some call it the unwrapping room — is small, time is scarce and there are thousands of gour-

met shops, caterers and restaurants.

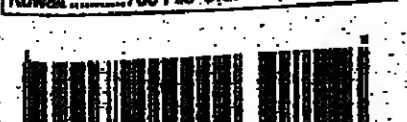
Take Laura Jones, an Upper East Sider who prepared Thanksgiving dinner for 10 friends by polishing the silver and putting out the Limoges plates.

"The first time I did Thanksgiving in Manhattan, it was a total disaster," said Ms. Jones, who carried home a 14-pound turkey to cook for that event.

"The turkey was too big for the oven. That's why I never cook."

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Newstand Prices	
Andorra	10.00 FF Lebanon
Antilles	12.50 FF Morocco
Armenia	1.800 CFA Qatar
Egypt	SE 6.50 Réunion
El Salvador	10.00 FF Saudi Arabia
Ghana	1.100 CFA Senegal
Italy	3.000 Lire Spain
Ivory Coast	1.250 CFA Tunisia
Jordan	1.250 JD UAE
Kuwait	700 Fils U.S. \$8 (Est.)



Too Goody to Be True? / British Journalist's Next Stop: Lewinsky

Kenyans Puzzle Over Sympathetic Portrait of Moi

By Ian Fisher
New York Times Service

NAIROBI — The man hired to write Monica Lewinsky's side of the presidential scandal has become famous here in the last few weeks, maybe even more famous than she is. And from what Kenyans have seen, this much is clear: If she is looking for a sympathetic ear, she probably picked the right man.

Sandwiched between his account of the crumbling marriage of Diana, Princess of Wales, and the Lewinsky book, the British journalist Andrew Morton spent three years writing about another public figure: Daniel arap Moi, the president of Kenya since 1978.

The book about Mr. Moi, a mysterious figure to many people here, was published this month. In the first few days it sold 7,000 copies, faster than any book before, as Kenyans rushed to read one of the only in-depth works about their president.

But sales are slackening off, and some Kenyans are growing angry at what they say is Mr. Morton's relentlessly sunny story, from Mr. Moi's boyhood in the rural Rift Valley in his rise in power to the still-unresolved murder in 1991 of one of his top aides.

The biography is so positive and apologetic that many people in Kenya are confused: either Mr. Morton was paid to write the book, which his publishers deny, or he was writing about some other Mr. Moi.

"Perhaps because serving his nation is his second nature, he rarely, if ever, thinks of himself before his country," reads a typical sentence in the 305-page book, "Moi: The Making of an African Statesman," published by Michael O'Mara Books, the same company that is putting out the Lewinsky book.

"It's an odd book," said John Githongo, a political analyst and



Andrew Morton, who wrote an account of the marriage of Diana, Princess of Wales, and will present the Monica Lewinsky version of the presidential scandal, was nice to Daniel arap Moi.

columnist for The East African, a weekly newspaper that has been running sections of the book this month, and selling a lot more papers because of it. "The character that is created is so different from the one most Kenyans believe they know."

"For Monica Lewinsky, I think it's quite healthy," he added.

Despite his two decades in office, many Kenyans say their president remains a cipher. Critics contend he is an inarticulate throwback — one of the last African "Big Men" who has ruled by opposing multiparty democracy, encouraging ethnic divisiveness and, at a minimum, sitting back as corruption eroded the economy.

There is a more charitable view, which Mr. Morton embraces on every page: that for all his faults, Mr. Moi has been a friend to the West who has kept Kenya largely peaceful as neighboring countries crumbled into conflict. Many people maintain education has improved, and

Kenyans, and their vibrant press, can mostly say what they please, although there are sometimes repercussions.

As his rule nears an end — Mr. Moi, 74, must step down in 2002 — he is reportedly worried about embedding the latter view into history.

Along came Mr. Morton, who had earned millions of dollars on his books about the British royalty, notably, "Diana: Her True Story," written in 1992 with the covert cooperation of the princess.

THERE has been much speculation, here and in Britain, about exactly why Mr. Morton decided to take on the project and why Mr. Moi, who has granted few interviews in his life, cooperated. A person close to both the government and Mr. Morton said Mr. Moi was concerned about his legacy and felt Mr. Morton would be sympathetic.

"There is a feeling at State

House that the president doesn't get a fair wind," the person said.

Despite speculation in the press here about exactly how much Mr. Morton might have been paid for the book, the person denied that any money had changed hands.

"He looked me straight in the eye and told me in absolutely no way was he paid by State House," the person said.

Still, the book's tone has done little to dampen suspicions. "One cannot help but think that Morton was well paid for this book," read a scathing review in The Times of London, "since it will do his reputation nothing but harm."

Mr. Morton, reportedly boled up in Los Angeles with Ms. Lewinsky working on her book, could not be reached for comment.

But he has become a celebrity in his own right here, though much of the attention has not been good. Most contentious has been Mr. Morton's explanation of the murder of Dr. Robert Ouko, the foreign minister who was seen as a possible rival to Mr. Moi. The

death has long hung over Mr. Moi's rule, and the killing has been linked to several people close to the president.

Mr. Morton singles out one of them, Hezekiah Oyugi, the security chief, raising the possibility that Mr. Ouko had an affair with one of Mr. Oyugi's three wives.

Mr. Oyugi died six years ago, but his family disputes Mr. Morton's account.

ONE of Kenya's most respected jurists, Justice Richard Otieno Kwach, is threatening to sue Mr. Morton over an allegation that he and two other judges investigating the murder were regularly entertained at Mr. Oyugi's house.

"He didn't give any of us the opportunity to rebut the allegations," Justice Kwach said. "He just swallowed what he was given, book, line and sinker."

Justice Kwach fumed during most of an interview, but then broke out into unjudicial laughter when the subject of Monica Lewinsky's book arose.

"I wasn't surprised," he said. "I don't think he will be engaged in anything better."

A sampling of Kenyans in Nairobi said that the book was worth reading no matter what, simply, they said, because they know so little about Mr. Moi's life. What they thought of the book depended largely on what they thought of the man.

"Everyone wants to know the personal life of the president — about why he is such a great president and what his secret is being so powerful, great and energetic," said Jitesh Upadhyay, 34, a bookstore owner.

But few were so upbeat.

"I want to know how he has survived all these political upheavals," said George Mutua, 26, an anthropology student who had just bought the book. "I'm not very optimistic. But I'm hoping to get some clues."

Adoptee Undoes A State of Secrecy

By Rene Sanchez
Washington Post Service

PORTLAND, Oregon — She spent almost all the money she had, campaigned day and night for a year and battled adoption advocates from across the country. Now, finally, Helen Hill has exactly what she wants: The right for her, and others here who are adopted, to learn the identity of their birth parents.

Ms. Hill's crusade ended in triumph when voters in Oregon this month approved a ballot initiative that would make this state the first since the 1950s to unseal confidential birth records and give any adoptees who ask a full accounting of their pasts, even if their natural parents never wanted them to find out.

In the complex, emotional world of adoption, the new law marks a revolutionary shift. It is deeply dividing the U.S. adoption industry. Some people who help arrange adoptions are so dismayed by its approval that they are rushing to get the state legislature or Oregon courts to negate it. Other adoption groups are so ecstatic that they are planning to take their cause directly to voters in other states across the West.

At the heart of the debate is a question that many still find difficult to answer: Who should have more rights, a parent who gives up a child for adoption or a child who was adopted?

"We have been on the losing side of this issue for decades," said Ms. Hill, 43, a soft-spoken adoptee who teaches art in the coastal town of Nehalem, Oregon, an hour's drive west of here. "This has been a system that engenders too much shame and secrecy, and this is our first major step to reclaim our dignity."

Only a few months ago, opponents of her measure were paying little attention to it because it seemed so poorly financed and obscure. Now, after watching it pass with nearly 58 percent of the vote, their worry is whether it will spread. And they are convinced that it will produce far more pain than healing.

Under the new Oregon law, for example, mothers who ever told their families or friends of their secret decision to put up a child for adoption years ago, or those who gave up a child conceived during a rape, could be exposed even though at the time the state promised them complete confidentiality.

"This invades people's privacy in the most basic way," said William Pierce, president of the National Council for Adoption, a Washington group that represents professionals in the field. "It is a terrible precedent. This tells people who won't take 'no' for an answer that they can have whatever information they want, no matter what it damages."

It was once common practice to keep adoption records open. But after World War II, amid a surge of out-of-wedlock births and a socially conservative mood across the country, every state but Kansas passed laws that shrouded adoptions in secrecy. Since then, Alaska in the 1950s and, more recently, Tennessee have overturned those laws. But the Tennessee legislation is mired in the courts and has not gone into effect.

Today, the stigmas that once surrounded many adoptions are fading. It is no longer unusual even for the two sets of parents involved in an adoption to work together or meet briefly, or for children to learn that they were adopted as soon as they are old enough to comprehend what that means.

But that new climate does little good for the many thousands of children adopted a generation ago. As they have come of age, often with at best a sketchy sense of their past, they have put pressure on states to tell them more, and they claim they usually meet resistance.

Many states are willing to give adoptees general information about their natural parents, such as their ethnicity or occupations. Others have created adoption registries in which third parties investigate whether a parent wants to be contacted. But that information sets off a protracted investigation that may or may not turn up the birth parents.

As a result, some adoptee-rights groups say both steps are too limited or too flawed.

Ms. Hill and an activist group called Bastard Nation have been working for several years to get the rules of confidentiality in past adoptions changed. Their efforts in state legislatures never went far. They realized that Oregon, like many other states in the West, had a relatively easy process for getting a citizen-sponsored initiative on the ballot.

Ms. Hill contributed more than \$85,000 from an inheritance she received from her adoptive father, who himself was adopted — to promote the ballot initiative. Most of it was paid to the firm that collected the required voter signatures.

The American Civil Liberties Union opposed the measure, as did the most prominent Oregon newspapers. Ms. Hill said Bastard Nation lacked money for radio or television advertising; they bought only one full-page newspaper ad. But they won the backing of such prominent adoptees as Michael Reagan, son of the former president, and Christina Crawford, daughter of the late actress Joan Crawford and author of the best-selling book "Mommie Dearest."

Flip Wilson, Pioneering Black Comedian, Is Dead at 64

By Mel Watkins
New York Times Service

Flip Wilson, 64, the popular comedian who became the first black entertainer to be the host of a successful weekly variety show on American network television, died of liver cancer Wednesday in Malibu, California.

Mr. Wilson was best known for his portrayals of such outrageous, over-the-top characters as the Reverend Leroy of the Church of What's Happening Now and Geraldine, the sassy but proud black woman whose flamboyance, enthusiasm, and screeching, high-pitched voice was recognized by millions of viewers.

Her trademark quips — "When you're hot, you're hot; when you're not, you're not," "The devil made me do it," and "What you see is what you get" — became national catch phrases, part of everyone's vocabulary when Mr. Wilson's

variety show in the 1970s became one of America's best-watched programs.

Late in his career, Mr. Wilson said of the irrepressible Geraldine, "She carried me longer than my mother did."

Geraldine and the Reverend Leroy, along with Mr. Wilson's likable personality, seemingly effortless delivery, and joyful depiction of the language and mannerisms of black street life helped catapult "The Flip Wilson Show" to No. 1 in the ratings among variety shows shortly after it began on NBC in 1970. The next year, Mr. Wilson won an Emmy for Outstanding Writing Achievement for a Variety Show and, by 1972, his show was second in the overall ratings only to Archie Bunker and "All in the Family."

More storyteller than one-liner, Mr. Wilson's wind-up tales and uninhibited use of the

timbre and resonance of black dialect were often compared to the Yiddish inflections and stories of the comedian Myron Cohen.

Richard Pryor told him, "You're the only performer that I've seen who goes on the stage and the audience hopes that you like them."

Unlike many groundbreaking comedians of his period, most notably Lenny Bruce, Dick Gregory and Mort Sahl, Mr. Wilson stayed far afield of politics and social satire. "Things can be funny only when we are in fun," he insisted. "When we're 'dead earnest,' humor is the only thing that is dead."

In his version of the discovery of America, Christopher Columbus tells Queen Isabella, "If I don't discover America, there's not gonna be a Benjamin Franklin or a 'Star-Spangled Banner,' or a land of the free, or a home of the brave — and no Ray Charles." When the quipo bears this, she screams,

"Chris gone find Ray Charles! He goin' to America on that boat. What you say!"

Wilson also delighted in telling shaggy dog stories that wound through circuitous asides and ended with unexpected puns and innocuous word play. In a routine set near the Colosseum in ancient Rome where the Christians fought the lions, he announced: "Those lions were undefeated — the Christians had a great coach... but the team was shaky."

And his story of a vaudeville comedy team called Well Enough and Bad Enough concludes in a courtroom scene after one comic has been assaulted by a hotel clerk. Given a particularly harsh sentence, the hotel clerk asks the judge, "How come you being so hard on me?" The judge replies, "I'm trying to teach you to leave Well Enough alone."

Clerow Wilson was born in Jer-

sey City, New Jersey, on Dec. 8, 1933, one of a family of 18 children. He was placed in foster care at the age of 7, shortly after his mother abandoned the family. A series of unhappy periods in foster homes followed; after running away more than a dozen times, he was sent to reform school.

At 13 he rejoined his father, but at 16 he quit school and, lying about his age, joined the air force. His knack for creating outlandish stories and acting them out in various dialects led some members of his outfit to conclude that he was "flipping out." Soon, everyone was calling him Flip.

After his discharge in 1954, Mr. Wilson worked his way across the United States, appearing in black clubs and theaters where he honed his skills and silenced insistent hecklers with lines such as, "You know, when we take over, we goin' to have to kill some of us, too."

TRAVEL UPDATE

France Faces New Rail Strike

PARIS (AFP) — France's state-owned railroad, the SNCF, said Thursday it was cutting back services sharply as the second strike called by

French rail unions this week was scheduled to begin. The strike, to put pressure on the SNCF to hire more workers, was to start Thursday evening and last until Saturday morning.

Railroad officials said such international services as the

high-speed Eurostar line to London and the Thalys line to Brussels as well as high-speed trains to Switzerland would not be affected.

The SNCF said domestic services in most of France would be cut by two-thirds and that Paris-area commuter trains would also be affected.

20 Sculptures For Tuileries

PARIS (AP) — A bronze cast of Auguste Rodin's monumental "The Kiss," looted by the Nazis during World War II, will go on permanent display this week in the Tuileries Gardens.

The installation is part of a plan by France's Culture Ministry in put 20 pieces of modern sculpture in the gardens by the end of next year.

The Rodin is among the first 12 pieces of sculpture being installed this week in the Tuileries. An inauguration ceremony is scheduled for Dec. 9. The rest are to be in place by the end of next year.

Scandinavian Airlines System plans to add a flight to its Copenhagen-Luxembourg service starting Jan. 10, bringing the total number of weekly flights to three. The company will also begin service between Copenhagen and Haugesund, Norway, on Jan. 11.

Air France will introduce three daily flights each between Charles de Gaulle Airport near Paris and Edinburgh and Glasgow on March 28. The flights, which are to be operated by Air France's franchise partner, Jersey European Airways.

Correction

A Page One caption Thursday misidentified Ryutaro Hashimoto. He is the former Japanese prime minister.

WEATHER

Forecast for Saturday through Monday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Europe

	Today	High	Low	Tomorrow	High	Low
Algeria	18/14	11/10	8/6	18/15	11/10	8/6
Austria	14/10	2/1	1/1	14/10	2/1	1/1
Belgium	11/12	2/1	1/1	11/12	2/1	1/1
Bulgaria	14/11	10/1	8/1	14/11	10/1	8/1
Czech	12/10	5/1	4/1	12/10	5/1	4/1
Denmark	12/10	5/1	4/1	12/10	5/1	4/1
France	12/10	5/1	4/1	12/10	5/1	4/1
Germany	12/10	5/1	4/1	12/10	5/1	4/1
Greece	12/10	5/1	4/1	12/10	5/1	4/1
Ireland	12/10	5/1	4/1	12/10	5/1	4/1
Italy	12/10	5/1	4/1	12/10	5/1	4/1
Japan	12/10	5/1	4/1	12/10	5/1	4/1
Latvia	12/10	5/1	4/1	12/10	5/1	4/1
Lithuania	12/10	5/1	4/1	12/10	5/1	4/1
Netherlands	12/10	5/1	4/1	12/10	5/1	4/1
Norway	12/10	5/1	4/1	12/10	5/1	4/1
Poland	12/10	5/1	4/1	12/10	5/1	4/1
Portugal	12/10	5/1	4/1	12/10	5/1	4/1
Romania	12/10	5/1	4/1	12/10	5/1	4/1
Spain	12/10	5/1	4/1	12/10	5/1	4/1
Sweden	12/10	5/1	4/1	12/10	5/1	4/1
Switzerland	12/10	5/1	4/1	12/10	5/1	4/1
Turkey	12/10	5/1	4/1	12/10	5/1	4/1
Ukraine	12/10	5/1	4/1	12/10	5/1	4/1
USSR	12/10	5/1	4/1	12/10	5/1	4/1
Yugoslavia	12/10	5/1	4/1	12/10	5/1	4/1

North America

		
Johnson	Unseasonably Cold	Unseasonably Cold
North America		
<p>Much of the central and eastern part of the country will be dry and unseasonably warm. Temperatures may reach the middle teens in Chicago and Toronto and 10-15 in New York City and Washington, D.C. Showers will dampen California, including Los Angeles.</p>		
Europe		
<p>Colder in the north with spots and occasional rain. Remaining with rain in the rest of M and E and Istanbul is to have a cold and rain or persistent Warsaw.</p>		

THE AMERICAS

Kevorkian Could Find An Understanding Jury

Case Will Test Issue of Euthanasia vs. Murder

By William Glaberson
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Prosecutors are at a sharp disadvantage in the first-degree premeditated murder case they filed against Dr. Jack Kevorkian because a jury might find it easy to sympathize with the suffering of the terminally ill, experts in criminal law said.

Dr. Kevorkian was arrested Wednesday in Waterford Township, Michigan. Magistrate Robert Crawford released him the same day, but warned him he would have to pay a \$750,000 bond if he took part in "any homicide, euthanasia, or whatever you call it. Any action used in taking of human life."

Law professors and experienced defense lawyers said Dr. Kevorkian, who has escaped numerous prosecutions, could again argue that the law is out of step with society's desire to help ease the pain of terminally ill people.

Whether assisted suicide, or euthanasia, is morally right or wrong, several of the experts say, jurors are often uncomfortable applying existing laws to such cases.

"The law of murder was not drafted with these sorts of cases in mind," said Franklin Zimring, a professor of criminal law at the law school at the University of California at Berkeley.

That would give Dr. Kevorkian an advantage over prosecutors in a trial in the televised death that Dr. Kevorkian has described as his first euthanasia, legal experts said.

Dr. Kevorkian appears to be acknowledging that he intentionally caused the death of Thomas Youk, a 52-year-old man suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease, whose final moments were shown on the CBS news program

"60 Minutes" Sunday. Several lawyers said that constitutes murder under the law.

But they said that, in a courtroom, the issues would be far more complex. For example, they said, to find premeditated murder jurors generally must conclude that the killer acted with malice aforethought, which is defined as "disregard of human life."

Mark Birns, a former prosecutor who is now at the law firm of Proskauer Rose in Washington, said, "Dr. Kevorkian turns that whole concept on its head because he says, 'Look, I have total regard for life.' With his assertion that he is helping to ease pain."

That argument, lawyers said, would not likely get far with a judge. But jurors might be attracted to such a claim because of their empathy with the victims of serious illnesses.

Similarly, legal experts said, the courts are likely to be hostile to any claim that Mr. Youk gave his permission to be killed. Courts and legislatures have said that they cannot permit people to approve their own deaths because that would open a Pandora's Box of potential abuses.

But jurors might be swayed by assertions that justice demands that a suffering person be in control over his or her death, said Robert Lawry, a criminal law professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland.

If Dr. Kevorkian were convicted of murder, he could be sentenced to life in prison. The severe sentence, some lawyers said, could help Dr. Kevorkian fight the case.

Even people who disapprove of euthanasia, these lawyers said, could say that it would be irrational to impose on a



Dr. Jack Kevorkian leaving a Michigan court under a \$750,000 bond.

merciful killer the same sentence that would be imposed on cold-blooded killers.

Dr. Kevorkian's strength in court in the past has often come from such sympathies. He was acquitted in three trials involving five deaths, one case against him ended in a mistrial, a judge threw out a murder charge in 1990 and another murder case was dropped in 1992.

Criticism of TV Program

Howard Kurtz of The Washington Post reported:

By televising a death that was choreographed for the cameras, "60 Minutes" bought itself a huge audience, a torrent of publicity and some of the harshest criticism ever leveled at the 30-

year-old program. CBS executives insist they performed a valuable service in airing a videotape of Dr. Kevorkian giving a patient a lethal injection. But in the days since the Sunday broadcast, detractors have accused them of turning death into entertainment and giving the doctor's crusade for euthanasia a prime-time platform.

Roman Catholic leaders, joined by Cardinal James Hickey of Washington, have denounced the program and urged a letter-writing campaign.

Hundreds of viewers have called the network, a majority of them with negative comments. Some talk radio hosts, editorial writers and media analysts have been scathing, while others have been supportive.

Hyde's Staff Preparing Articles of Impeachment

Only Perjury Count Has a Chance, an Aide Says

By Alison Mitchell
and Eric Schmitt
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — As the House Judiciary Committee moves into the final stages of its inquiry, Representative Henry Hyde's senior staff is beginning to draw up three articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton.

A senior Republican official of the committee said that the drafting was in its "very early stages" and that any proposals would have to be circulated for approval to the committee's 21 Republican members. But the three articles that are being considered would allege perjury, obstruction of justice and witness tampering, and, on the basis of the president's repeated assertion of legal privileges, abuse of power.

Mr. Hyde, Republican of Illinois, who is chairman of the committee, is overseeing the work, which is being done by David Schippers, the investigative counsel for the panel's majority, and Thomas Mooney, the committee's staff director.

The committee official who spoke of the drafting Wednesday, on the condition of anonymity, said that as part of the process, aides were looking at the report sent to the committee by Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, as well as the Watergate articles of impeachment against President Richard Nixon and impeachment cases against three federal judges.

The committee staff is not preparing any version of a censure resolution, even though many in the House maintain that censure could win approval on the House floor and that impeachment cannot. While there have been routine contacts between the committee and the

Republican leadership, Republicans say there is little if any coordination of a common strategy.

Intent on finishing work soon, Mr. Hyde sent a letter Wednesday to the White House threatening to subpoena the president if he did not respond by Monday to 81 questions sent to him by the committee three weeks ago. White House officials say the president will respond Friday.

Mr. Hyde may also ask his committee, after a hearing Tuesday into the consequences of perjury, to subpoena additional witnesses, a Republican committee aide said. And he may soon seek a vote to release documents held under seal in additional boxes that Mr. Starr has sent the committee in recent weeks.

The Judiciary Committee is moving steadily along the path toward recommending impeachment even though moderate Republicans outside the committee and some experienced House Republican aides say they think a floor vote on even a single count of perjury would be too close to call. Any article beyond perjury would be "doomed," one senior House Republican aide said.

Because Representative Bob Livingston, the incoming speaker, has said any lawmaker's vote on impeachment will be a vote of conscience, Republican leaders are not conducting formal counts by the party whip.

But Republicans outside the committee say they expect 15 to 20 of their members to defect, even on a perjury count. That means that five to 10 Democrats would have to vote for impeachment for it to prevail.

The House, where terms expire on Jan. 3, now has 228 Republicans, 206 Democrats and one independent, who usually votes with the Democrats.

POLITICAL NOTES

Aide Says Starr Inquiry Might Go On for 2 Years

WASHINGTON — The office of the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, will remain open for business for up to two more years as it wraps up lingering investigations, and prosecutors may consider indicting President Bill Clinton after he leaves the White House, according to a Starr aide.

With criminal charges pending against two Clinton associates, Webster Hubbell and Susan McDougal — and other indictments still possible — prosecutors need more time to complete their work and issue a final report, said Charles Bakaly 3d, a spokesman for Mr. Starr.

Mr. Bakaly said it was likely that the prosecutor's office would remain open for a minimum of a year and a half and perhaps two years.

The time would be needed, he said, "even if everybody came in tomorrow, let's say, and accepted responsibility or somehow we were able to resolve the outstanding aspects of the investigation tomorrow."

As some members of the House Judiciary Committee began quietly exploring a possible deal to avoid removing the president from office, the prospect of a criminal indictment against Mr. Clinton has emerged, and Mr. Bakaly's timetable would allow for such a possibility.

Asked whether Mr. Starr was open to the idea of indicting Mr. Clinton after his term ended in January 2001, Mr. Bakaly said, "I think that's fair to conclude, but I don't want to send any signals here."

Mr. Bakaly added, "There's no statute of limitations problem. We have developed a criminal case." (WP)

Subpoena Seeks Tapes From Tripp's Neighbor

WASHINGTON — A Maryland grand jury investigating whether Linda Tripp illegally taped telephone conversations with the former White House intern Monica Lewinsky has ordered one of Mrs. Tripp's neighbors to turn over any of the secretly made tapes that Mrs. Tripp or others may have given her.

A grand jury subpoena directs Kathleen Ann Manwiler, who lives across the street from Mrs. Tripp in Columbia, Maryland, to bring any originals or copies of tapes with her to a Dec. 10 appearance before the 23-member panel. The subpoena also asks for any memos and other documents "reflecting the existence, location or possession" of the tapes by anyone other than the office of Kenneth Starr.

Mrs. Tripp spent several hours in Ms. Manwiler's house on at least one occasion in January, when the Lewinsky scandal first became public. (WP)

Quote/Unquote

Charles Yob, Republican national committeeman from Michigan, announcing that he will challenge Jim Nicholson in a three-way race for the national party chairmanship: "I'm off and running. I don't think anybody's going to win on the first ballot. If there's a second ballot, Nicholson's dead." (AP)

Away From Politics

• Powerful winds and heavy rains triggered mud slides and prompted renewed concerns about flooding as the second storm in three days pummeled the Northwest. Gusts of about 100 miles (160 kilometers) per hour were recorded in Portland, Oregon, while relentless downpours brought record rainfall to Seattle and Olympia, Washington. (AP)

• The futuristic ion engine on NASA's Deep Space 1 probe was back in operation after an unexpectedly successful restart. The engine is necessary for the spacecraft, the first deep-space probe to rely on a solar-powered ion engine for primary propulsion, to com-

plete a planned asteroid rendezvous. (AP)

• White residents of Appalachia die from heart disease at younger ages and in larger numbers than other Americans, researchers said, attributing the phenomenon to a shortage of medical facilities in the poor, rural Eastern region. (Reuters)

• Berkeley, California, is moving to ban sleeping on two avenues from 7 A.M. to 10 P.M. The City Council's proposed no-sleeping measure, aimed at homeless people, includes a provision to make beds available in shelters for drug users. (Reuters)

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Former POWs Fail to Win Compensation in Tokyo Court

The Associated Press
TOKYO — A Tokyo court on Thursday rejected a demand for compensation by soldiers and civilians from other countries who were held prisoner by Japanese troops during World War II.

The lawsuit was filed in 1995 by seven plaintiffs on behalf of 20,000 members of veteran and civilian ex-prisoner organizations from Australia, Britain, New Zealand and the United States.

The decision was the first handed down in Japan in a suit brought by former POWs from Allied countries. The plaintiffs said they would appeal.

The plaintiffs demanded \$22,000 each for what they claimed were violations of their rights under international treaties and conventions on the treatment of war prisoners. The total claim was for \$440 million.

The court ruled that the issue was resolved in 1951 with the signing of the San Francisco peace treaty.

The presiding judge, Shigeaki Inoue, said in his verdict that because of the 1951 treaty, individuals or groups could not seek compensation from the government. He said compensation issues must be dealt with on a government-to-government level.

Japan forced POWs to work in shipyards, mines and jungles in violation of international law. Some were also beaten or executed. The POW death rate at the Japanese camps was 27 percent, compared with a rate of 4 percent at Allied camps.

A lawyer for the plaintiffs, Martin Day, said the ruling and the court's refusal to consider testimony on the suffering his clients endured were an insult to the former prisoners.

"We have received a judgment that has been a kick in the teeth," Mr. Day said. "I think the Japanese court today should be ashamed of itself."

Mr. Day said the plaintiffs were willing to take the case to the Japanese Supreme Court. Gilbert Hair, representing the American former prisoners, said his group was also considering suing for compensation for slave labor under an international labor treaty signed by the Japanese in the 1930s.

Mr. Hair said the plaintiffs could also try to sue their own governments for compensation, arguing that those governments did not do enough to further the former prisoners' cause. But he said those suing preferred to be compensated by the Japanese.



Former prisoners of war and civilian internees who were held by Japan during World War II arriving at Tokyo District Court on Thursday. The judge dismissed their demand for compensation for alleged rights violations.

At Least 108 Die in India In Predawn Train Wreck

Compiled by Our Staff From Various Sources

KAURI, India — A passenger train rammed into another train in the northern Indian state of Punjab on Thursday, killing at least 108 people and injuring about 150, the police said.

The crash occurred before dawn when the Ambala-bound Sealdah Express rammed into derailed cars of the Frontier Golden Mail near Kauri village.

The railroad minister, Nitish Kumar, said a coupling between two cars of the Frontier Mail had broken, derailing the train. Two minutes later, the Sealdah Express crashed into the cars.

Mr. Kumar said 73 bodies had been pulled from the mangled cars, and an additional 35 bodies were being pulled out. There were 1,700 passengers aboard both trains, and the death toll could rise, police said.

"There are still some passengers in the coaches," said P.C. Dogra, the Punjab director-general of police. "Some may be injured, some may be dead."

The Press Trust of India news agency said the railroad authority had ordered an inquiry into the crash.

Police used loudspeakers to reassure those trapped that help was on the way, while residents shouted encouragement. Farmers offered tea, bread, blankets

and sweaters to the victims, many of whom were dressed in pajamas.

Ram Kumar, one of the injured passengers, said: "Most passengers were asleep when the accident took place. I was also asleep on my seat."

"Suddenly I heard a loud thud and I fell down from my seat. I was unconscious and later, when I regained consciousness, I was in the hospital bed."

Pharmacies donated medicine to help the small government hospitals, which were overwhelmed with victims and had run out of supplies. The government prepared to bring in doctors from the state capital, Chandigarh.

Kauri, about 70 kilometers (40 miles) from Chandigarh, is near Khanna, India's biggest grain market town. Ambala is 45 kilometers from Chandigarh.

Despite government efforts to improve rail safety, about 300 accidents occur every year on India's railroads, the largest network under one management in the world. In January, 52 people were killed in a train collision on a foggy morning in the northern city of Lucknow.

In August 1995, two trains collided near New Delhi, killing 358 people in the worst train wreck in India's history. More than 12 million people ride 14,000 trains across India every day. (Reuters/AP)

Anwar Accused Of Tampering

The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR — Anwar Ibrahim, the former Malaysian deputy prime minister, forced police to produce even stronger retractions from two people who had accused him of illegal sex, a former police official testified in court Thursday.

The witness was the latest called in prosecution efforts to prove that Mr. Anwar abused his power last year by forcing police to arrest and obtain retractions from those who had written to authorities accusing him of sodomy and adultery.

Amir Junus, a former deputy chief of police intelligence, said that the original retraction letters were not strong enough to suit Mr. Anwar, who forced him to tamper with them.

Ummi Hafidha Ali, the sister of Mr. Anwar's former secretary, had accused Mr. Anwar of having sex with her brother's wife, Azizah Abu Bakar, the politician's former chauffeur, claimed he was sodomized by his boss.

Mr. Anwar, 51, has denied the 10 corruption and sex charges against him, saying they were fabricated to eliminate his political challenge to Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad.

SUMMIT: A Hitch in China-Japan Talks

Continued from Page 1

nodded and then said that it was a good statement. "I guess the Chinese president was happy with what Mr. Obuchi told him," Mr. Saiki said. "That's our view."

Mr. Obuchi apparently was reluctant to apologize more forcefully to China in part because many members of his Liberal Democratic Party complain that Beijing always tries to exploit Japanese guilt about the past to win concessions from Tokyo. For his part, Mr. Jiang is also in a sensitive political position. One of his predecessors as Communist Party leader, Hu Yaobang, was removed in 1987 in part because hard-liners considered that he had been too friendly to Japan during a visit to Tokyo.

China did not publicly express its discontent Thursday night, but it did manage to extract an expression of Japanese remorse in the joint declaration.

Japan feels acute responsibility for the grave misfortune and harm to the Chinese people during a certain period of aggression toward China, and we express deep remorse about this," the declaration said. However, the declaration did not use the word "apology," which many Japanese feel is more serious than the word for remorse.

Negotiations over how Japan would refer to the past have been going on with China since the summer, and Beijing had lately been pushing for the kind of apology that Mr. Obuchi gave the South Korean president, Kim Dae Jung, during Mr. Kim's visit last month.

At that time, Mr. Obuchi signed a declaration along with Mr. Kim expressing Japan's "remorseful repentance and heartfelt apology" for having inflicted "unbearable damage and pain on the Korean people."

But when China sought a similar apology, Japan refused. Mr. Saiki said Thursday night that Japan believed the historical circumstances were different, and that a Korean-style apology was inappropriate for China. He noted that Japan had formally annexed the Korean Peninsula, while in the case of China it had fought a war there.

"We have never colonized China, although we did fight on the continent of China, and that is something we have to apologize for," Mr. Saiki said, adding, "But we do not have to issue an apology in writing for China."

Mr. Saiki said that the essence of the apology was the same to both countries, and that it was simply a matter of the form being different. He also denied reports by Japanese news organizations that the delay in issuing the declaration had been caused by last-minute haggling among diplomats about the wording.

Sadaaki Numata, the chief spokesman of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, said that the declaration with China was

never intended to be signed by the two leaders.

Japan also refused to follow President Clinton's lead and issue a "three noes" statement about Taiwan: no support for Taiwan independence, no support for a policy of "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan," and no support for entry by Taiwan into international organizations for which statehood is required. However, Mr. Obuchi did say that he did not support Taiwan independence and that he did regard it as Chinese territory.

BRIEFLY

U.S. to Renew Talks With North Korea

WASHINGTON — North Korea and the United States will resume talks in New York on Dec. 4 over underground building work in the Stalinist state that could be related to a nuclear weapons program, the State Department announced Thursday.

Charles Karmann, the U.S. envoy who failed to win access to the building site at talks in Pyongyang this month, will head the American side at the four days of talks, which will be held in New York on Dec. 4 and 5 and in Washington on Dec. 7 and 8.

The North Korean team will be led by Deputy Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan. (Reuters)

Nepal and Bhutan In Refugee Talks

KATMANDU, Nepal — Nepal and Bhutan will resume talks in January to resolve the issue of repatriation of nearly 100,000 Bhutanese refugees living in camps in this Himalayan state for the past eight years, a Nepalese minister said Thursday.

Interior Minister Govind Raj Joshi, who resumed home Thursday after talks with the Bhutanese officials in Thimphu, said both sides had shown a strong commitment to settle the refugee problem.

Relations between the two Himalayan kingdoms have been strained since Nepalese-speaking Bhutanese started fleeing to Nepal in the early 1980s after Bhutan tightened its citizenship regulations. (AP)

Philippine Rebels Pull Out of Fight

COTABATO, Philippines — Islamic rebels agreed Thursday to withdraw from a stretch of highway in the southern Philippines that they had seized, ending four days of fighting in which at least six people were killed.

"I have ordered our forces to clear the highway and withdraw," Al Haj Murad, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front vice chairman for military affairs, said after a meeting between members of the rebel group and Philippine Army officers.

He said the military agreed not to pursue the withdrawing rebels, estimated to number from 300 to 500. (Reuters)

No Confirmation Of Timor Killings

DILI, East Timor — Officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross said Thursday they had not been able to substantiate reports of a civilian massacre in a remote area of the troubled territory of East Timor.

But about 150 locals, with limited supplies of food, are still seeking refuge in a school in the Alas district, 200 kilometers east of Dili, following clashes between Indonesian troops and pro-independence guerrillas. (Reuters)



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Vajpayee Plays Down Impact Of a Likely Electoral Setback

The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — With exit polls predicting a setback for his party, the Indian prime minister shrugged off the forecasts for state elections Wednesday, saying the vote would not shake his government.

The elections in four regions were the first political test for the governing Bharatiya Janata Party since it took office eight months ago. A serious defeat could aggravate tensions in Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 19-party coalition.

But Mr. Vajpayee played down the importance of the elections.

"Even if the results go against us, this is not going to affect the government," he said in Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh.

The elections were held in the northern region of Delhi, where the federal capital is located; the central state of Madhya Pradesh; Rajasthan, in the western desert; and Mizoram, in the northeast.

The voting mostly was peaceful, although there was a gunfight between political rivals in Madhya Pradesh. Three people were killed and 16 were wounded in that clash, Press Trust of India reported.

Millions of ballots were sealed in iron

boxes and shipped to the capital of each of the four regions, where they will be counted Saturday. Final results will not be known until Sunday.

More than 80 million voters were eligible to choose 626 regional legislators from among 5,000 candidates.

The vote was a key electoral test for the new leader of the Congress (I) Party, Sonia Gandhi, the widow of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. She campaigned aggressively, as did Mr. Vajpayee.

The elections in Delhi, where Mr. Vajpayee's party holds power, were the most closely watched. One exit poll of 1,500 voters by the private Center for Media Studies forecast that the Congress Party would win two-thirds of the 70 seats in the assembly. A separate poll conducted by state television, Doordarshan, reported the same results.

Increases in vegetable prices were the most prominent issue during the electoral campaigns, and onions became a symbol of protest for the opposition.

Otherwise, pollsters said, most voters appeared to be apathetic.

"This is the most low-key provincial election in 40 years," said N. Bhaskara Rao, whose Center for Media Studies carried out surveys before the balloting in the four states.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

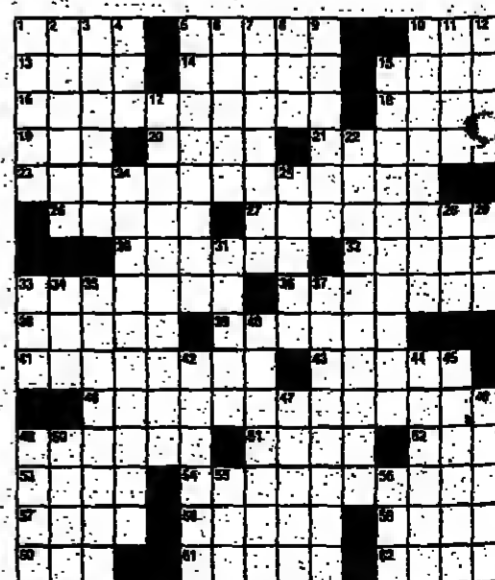
- 1 Synthetic
- 8 Rising star
- 10 Step to the barre
- 12 Have — (verb)
- 14 Private lines, perhaps
- 15 "Judge Dredd" villainess
- 16 The Steppes, e.g.
- 18 Pull (in)
- 19 Dram
- 20 "Kon —"
- 21 Oog
- 22 Jerk's work
- 26 First of Clyde
- 27 Hip
- 30 Popular credit card
- 32 Jacket
- 33 Held on to
- 36 Is part of a think tank
- 38 Stravinsky's "Scherzo à la —"
- 39 Conductor
- 41 Immortal
- 43 Mortant
- 46 Arizona tourist attraction
- 48 The Five — (1950's group)
- 51 Hot spot
- 52 House cat?
- 53 Race place
- 54 Little inventory
- 57 They may be drawn
- 58 Saloon requests
- 59 Bowser's pal
- 60 — (horse defect)
- 61 Cereals killer
- 62 Player's club

DOWN

- 1 Great Prefix
- 2 Flugstad's "My Children" My —
- 3 It's on the bottom
- 4 So-called creations
- 5 Agun — (Palm Springs, formerly)
- 6 Kansas International Airport site
- 7 Bar charge
- 8 "The Tonight Show" announcer Hall
- 9 Did a double take?
- 10 Like some dreams
- 11 Without warranty
- 12 Without
- 13 Lights up
- 17 Ready for the ride to begin
- 22 Minor
- 24 Chair places
- 25 1982 World Cup site
- 28 Third of October
- 29 C.P.R. sites
- 31 Birth cert., e.g.
- 33 — Magnon
- 34 Hit 1964 Murray Schisgal play
- 35 Lacking a dividing membrane
- 37 After everyone else
- 40 Malodorous
- 42 Kind of inspection
- 44 "La Loge" artist
- 45 "Viva Zapata!" star
- 47 "Likewise"
- 48 Big name in rings
- 49 Unique
- 50 Confess
- 52 Earth orbiter
- 56 Nat King Cole's "May"

Solution to Puzzle of Nov. 26

AMTS APER SEPJA
GORE MAINE ORINS
LEITA ACTORFINCH
EXPLOREORAKE
TILERY YES CBS
STERILE CNOTE
LAX SOONER
ARCHITECTWREN
SCOPE ORE
UNBOX ONADIME
PIET SAID ORATOR
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EUROPE

Spanish Judge Heading Pinochet Inquiry Plans to Examine U.S. Files

By Marlene Simons
New York Times Service

PARIS — The Spanish judge who wants the former dictator of Chile, Augusto Pinochet, to stand trial, plans to go to Washington to try to see secret U.S. government files, court officials in Spain say.

They say that the judge's plans to build up his case will go ahead, regardless of whether the general continues to be held in detention in London or is set free.

On Wednesday, the House of Lords rejected the general's claim to immunity. That leaves it to the British government to act on the Spanish extradition request; the Spanish judge, Baltasar Garçon, filed the request in mid-October, seeking to

try the general on charges of terrorism, torture and genocide.

Judge Garçon is said to be particularly interested in U.S. government files relating to events of the 1970s, when the CIA and U.S. Embassy personnel were close to the Pinochet regime and knew of the activities of its powerful secret police.

This police force is widely considered to be responsible for the worst excesses of the Pinochet regime, including the kidnapping, torture and summary executions of leftist opponents.

Washington has thousands of secret files from that period, and Judge Garçon is expected to ask for hundreds of specific documents from the State and Justice departments relating to events in

Argentina as well as Chile. He will be making the request under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, which allows for such exchanges and was signed by Spain and the United States. He will also ask to hear witnesses.

His visit would be the second by a member of the Spanish investigating team.

Another judge, Manuel García Castellón, who has since stepped down from the investigation went to Washington last January after the U.S. government indicated it was willing to cooperate. But court officials said that he had made little headway because he was given only documents that were already in the public realm.

In a letter to President Bill Clinton last month, after the arrest of General

Pinochet, 36 members of Congress complained that despite the president's personal promise, the government had been slow to assist Spain in the case. "It is our understanding that the United States has materials and other critical information that will help link Pinochet directly to acts of international terrorism," the letter said.

Unfortunately, the letter said, the Justice Department gave the Spanish judge public documents only and did not elicit important testimony from witnesses.

The Justice Department material stems from its investigation of a car bomb that went off in Washington in 1975 to hunt down leftists and to stamp out what they considered a Communist threat.

Agents of the Chilean secret police prepared and detonated the time bomb, and the former police chief, Manuel Contreras, is serving a prison sentence for the crime.

This killing is one of the events Judge Garçon is interested in. He wants to know whether — and if so, how — General Pinochet was linked to the event. At the time, General Contreras was answerable to General Pinochet.

Judge Garçon is also said to be interested in finding out more details about Operation Condor, a pact that the intelligence services of five South American military regimes made in 1975 to hunt down leftists and to stamp out what they considered a Communist threat.

"Condor practiced international terrorism, they kidnapped people across borders, exchanged prisoners and tortured and secretly killed them," a Spanish court official involved in the investigation said this week. "There is an interest in Condor because it shows the coordination of the crimes."

A declassified cable from the U.S. Embassy in Argentina, dated September 1976 and part of Judge Garçon's files, said that Operation Condor was conceived to carry out joint operations against "leftists, Communists and Marxists," in which special teams would "locate and surveil the target" while other teams would "carry out the actual sanction."

The cable said that Chile was the center of the operation and that other countries, including Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay, and perhaps Brazil, were members. It said that members showing "the most enthusiasm to date" had been Chile, Argentina and Uruguay. Dozens of people were reportedly kidnapped and killed under the plan, including Spanish citizens, two Uruguayan lawmakers, students and political activists.

Judge Garçon wants to know more about the number of victims of the operation and to gather more information about the extent of responsibility of General Pinochet and other senior Chilean and Argentine military officials.

In a parallel investigation, Judge Garçon is also focusing on the fate of Spanish and other victims during the "dirty war" in Argentina between 1976 and 1983, when the military and police forces secretly imprisoned and executed more than 10,000 people in their campaign against leftists. He will also request to see U.S. government documents relating to Argentina.

Human rights workers believe that Washington's files are richest on Chile, though, because of the deep U.S. involvement in that country before and after the military coup of 1973 in which General Pinochet seized power. The administration of President Richard Nixon openly favored the coup and it helped prepare the climate for the military intervention against the socialist government of Salvador Allende, blocking loans, financing strikes and supporting the opposition press. It is Washington's own role at the time that may inhibit its cooperation with the Spanish investigation, some U.S. human rights workers said.

"The U.S. may have more documents linking Pinochet to the Letelier killing and to other events," said Reed Brody, a lawyer with Human Rights Watch in New York. "But the U.S. has been less than interested in cooperating with Spain. If this were a case the U.S. would like to see prosecuted, the response would be more energetic and cooperative."

PINOCHET: Government Gets Case

Continued from Page 1

From the moment the general was arrested in London on Oct. 16, the government of Prime Minister Tony Blair has kept itself publicly detached, saying that the matter was one between magistrates in Spain and England. The original warrant came from Baltasar Garçon, a Spanish judge who has been investigating atrocities during the "dirty wars" in the 1970s and 1980s in Latin America. The warrant tied General Pinochet to the deaths of 3,178 people.

The arrest caught the British by surprise and placed them in an awkward diplomatic position because Chile is a longtime friend and an active trading partner, and it was a valued backer of Britain during the 1982 Falkland Islands War.

Any impulse to rid itself of the unwanted case runs up against the Blair government's commitment to what it calls an "ethical" foreign policy and would bring condemnation from rights groups, the large numbers of Europeans who revile General Pinochet and many others of the governing Labour Party with strong memories of the repressive regime he ran. Mr. Straw himself was a college radical who marched in anti-Pinochet rallies in the 1970s.

Chile has argued that Britain and Spain are interfering in the democratic development of Chile and disrupting its resolve to put its convulsive past to rest in its own manner. "We are not here to protect the dictator of yesterday. We are here to protect and defend our transition to democracy," said Mario Araya, the Chilean ambassador to Britain.

That argument has been picked up here by leaders of the opposition Conservatives, who in speeches in the House of Commons have pointed to the return of divisions and unrest in Chile.

[In Madrid, Reuters quoted an unnamed adviser to Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar as saying the Spanish leader would be "overjoyed" to find an easy exit from the political dilemma.]

Mr. Straw asked the Bow Street Magistrate's Court on Thursday to put off by a week its scheduled Dec. 2 hearing in the Pinochet case.

The extradition process in Britain was once considered the most arduous and time-consuming in the world, and even with reforms enacted in 1989, there are so many opportunities for judicial review that efforts can drag on for years. If the case proceeds at the normal pace, General Pinochet would be unable to leave England for at least a year.

Mr. Straw's first obligation is to declare whether the Spanish case for extradition meets the principal criteria of the 1989 Extradition Act: whether it would be "unjust or oppressive" to order extradition; whether General Pinochet is wanted for serious crimes, ones described as punishable by at least 12 months in prison; whether the offenses are of a "political" nature, and whether the documentation accompanying the request is thorough and authentic.

Even at this preliminary point, General Pinochet's lawyers could challenge Mr. Straw's decision, starting an appeal process that could take the matter back up the judicial ladder to the Law Lords.

If Mr. Straw gives the go-ahead and it survives judicial scrutiny, the matter will go to the Bow Street court for a hearing before the chief metropolitan magistrate.

The magistrate's decision on whether to endorse the extradition request could trigger another series of appeals up to the Law Lords. If these hurdles are all cleared, the case returns to Mr. Straw for a "final surrender" warrant.

Even though the extradition order at that point would carry the courts' approval, Mr. Straw still would have the power to rule it out, citing "oppressive" considerations such as the age or health of Mr. Pinochet. If Mr. Straw authorized the request, General Pinochet could appeal, and for the third possible time, the case could end up with the Law Lords. All these steps are in conformity with the European conventions on extradition.

Schroeder Under Fire

Tensions Build Up With Coalition Partner And Within His Social Democratic Party

By Roger Cohen
New York Times Service

BERLIN — Less than a month after he swept into office with a ready smile and talk of a "new middle" that would revitalize Germany, Gerhard Schröder has lost much of the momentum and goodwill that propelled his ascent.

Sniped at by state premiers, who wield much power in Germany's decentralized system, criticized by his Green coalition partners, attacked by leading businessmen, buffeted from within his own Social Democratic Party, Mr. Schröder has appeared unable to impose his stamp on the government.

"There is no need to panic," said Peter Struck, the leader of the Social Democrats in Parliament, but the admonition itself clearly reflected mounting concern. Heide Rühle, the party manager of the environmentalist Greens, declared that the country "cannot be governed by the troops of chaos."

At a time when Germany is pursuing a self-confident buying spree in the United States — Deutsche Bank's purchase of Banker's Trust this week follows Daimler's acquisition of Chrysler and Bertelsmann's absorption of Random House — this political uncertainty may appear out of character.

But the reality of Germany today is a streamlined and aggressive corporate sector, acutely aware of the challenges of the global economy, alongside an uncertain social and political model that Mr. Schröder has vowed to galvanize.

In part, Mr. Schröder's difficulties stem from teething problems inevitable given the Social Democrats' 16-year absence from power, as well as from the fact that a coalition government with the Greens was widely regarded as unlikely before the September elections, ensuring that few preparations for such a coalition were made.

"They were not prepared at all," said Claus Leggewie, a sociologist close to the government. "Nothing was prepared, and then the program was put together in haste. It does look kind of amateurish."

But at a deeper level, Mr. Schröder seems to be suffering from the very ambiguities of his campaign. While his ability to appear both as an energetic modernizer and a traditional Social Democrat sensitive to workers' concerns was effective at election rallies, it seems to be proving too wide a stretch for government.

Tensions within the Social Democratic Party burst into the open with the recent publication of a blunt letter to Mr. Schröder from Wolfgang Clement, the Social Democratic premier of the North Rhine-Westphalia state, a huge economy in itself.

Mr. Clement said the tax reforms proposed by the government were inadequate and would do nothing to reduce unemployment, now running at more than 10 percent. He suggested slashing the corporate income tax level to below 30 percent from over 40 percent, and lowering top tax rates for individuals.

He also lambasted government plans to close tax loopholes for corporations and raise energy taxes, saying the changes would cost businesses about \$17.8 billion. The thrust of his argument, which is also that of big business, was that only a deregulation of the economy would spur corporations to create jobs.

The letter revealed the extent of the chasm between reformist Social Democrats like Mr. Clement and Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine, whose rhetoric has focused more on the widening gap between rich and poor in Germany, the need to spur growth through cutting interest rates and the possibilities of creating employment through a state-sponsored "alliance for jobs" bringing

together labor unions and industry leaders.

"The root of Mr. Schröder's difficulties is the unresolved questions within the Social Democratic Party," said Werner Weidenfeld, a political scientist. "There are two streams, the traditionalists and the modernizers, and it is still unclear who will decide between them. The result is a turbulence that may last."

For the moment, Mr. Schröder, whose essential political talent is that of a very effective communicator, at once polished and unpolished, has appeared to want to remain above the fray.

This policy of aloofness may spare him the worst of the vitriol flying between the wings of his party, but at some point it appears inevitable that the chancellor will have to intervene more forcefully or face growing criticism for indecisiveness.

Confusion has also been evident outside the critical economic area.

One of the more resolute commitments of the Red-Green coalition is to change Germany's restrictive nationality laws, allowing more of the 7 million foreigners living in the country to become German citizens. "Germany is a land of immigration" has been among the most forthright slogans of the Greens.

The commitment to change the law for foreigners already living in Germany re-



Chancellor Gerhard Schröder speaking Thursday at the EU in Brussels.

mains intact. But Otto Schilly, the Social Democratic interior minister, infuriated the Greens last week by saying that the "limits of Germany's capacity to take new immigrants has been exceeded."

The statement reflected an economic reality: The German social security system is under intense strain from a fast-growing population, and the steady arrival of new immigrants has tended to accentuate that strain.

But Mr. Schilly's words also illustrated the political reality that Mr. Schröder's coalition is very much a work in progress, full of rough edges, murky policies and ominous strains.

Immigration Debate Heats Up
Mr. Schröder was criticized by the

Greens on Thursday for saying Germany had no room for more immigrants, Reuters reported from Bonn.

Greens party members and foreigners groups said comments Mr. Schröder made to the weekly newspaper, Die Woche on Wednesday could stir up xenophobia.

Mr. Schröder said that "Germany can't cope with additional immigration" and firmly stood behind Mr. Schilly.

"Anyone who says that the limits have been passed is only fueling fears and making themselves, involuntarily, key witnesses for future xenophobic resentment and aggression," said Rupert von Plotnitz, justice minister in the state of Hesse, in an interview with the newspaper Bild.

FRANCE: Limits of Charity

Continued from Page 1

icans are good philanthropists even though they think socialism is a dirty word."

A French foundation executive, who did not wish to be named, scathingly framed the historic assumption behind this habit: "Private money is impure, it's immoral. Only the state has pure money."

Why this is so is a matter of debate and speculation among France's vigorous community of philanthropic, charitable and humanitarian activists. They lament that a society enlightened enough to have invented Doctors Without Borders and Doctors of the World and to have pioneered programs to feed the homeless from restaurant kitchens should be, on average, less generous than other Western countries.

Not surprisingly, perhaps, they lay much of the blame at the feet of the state, and notably the French tax system, which offers feeble incentives for giving.

Tax deductions for charitable contributions in France are limited to 6 percent of annual taxable income (the figure is 50 percent in the United States). The deduction for most gifts to nonprofit organizations is 50 percent; a two-year-old revision of the tax code offers 60 percent deductions for contributions to associations that feed, clothe and doctor the poor. But even those deductions are limited to annual gifts under 2,000 francs, or about \$400.

The attractions of a 60 percent deduction, according to an analysis of the latest available information, for 1996, have meant handsome benefits for those nonprofit groups that help the neediest. But, perversely, that sector apparently has drawn off donations that used to go to other nonprofits, such as cultural, sporting, environmental and professional groups whose donors are entitled only to 50 percent deductions.

The average French gift to a nonprofit organization is about \$120 a year. The number of donors has slid gradually



Ali, a homeless man who lives under a Paris highway bridge, drinking donated soup. Eight people have died in the recent French cold spell.

during the 1990s, while the number of people volunteering their time to charitable and other such organizations has gradually increased.

In an interview, Marc Gentilini, president of the French Red Cross, offered a blunt assessment of the problem: "The French state is incapable of encouraging giving. Giving is suspect."

He attributes this to an institutional obsession with "fault-finding" — the citizen who wants to make a contribution is assumed to be dishonest, and he has to prove his honesty. This doesn't promote citizenship, and it doesn't promote charity.

Jacques Malet, who conducted a series of recent studies of French giving habits for the Fondation de France, the umbrella association that advises nonprofits here, said there is another element of the French income tax system that discourages giving.

Only about half of French households have income levels that require them to pay taxes (as distinct from a vast array of supplementary "social charges" that cover health care, retirement and such). For the half of the population that are not taxpayers, there is no incentive at all to give to charity or church — other than simple altruism, that is.

Because Mr. Malet's studies rely on information provided by tax inspectors, they cannot assess what is reportedly a large habit of generosity by French people of modest means. In France, as in the United States, the less wealthy give greater proportions of their income to nonprofits of all kinds, and to charities especially, than those at the upper end of the income scale. The closer you are to neediness, those who study these habits explain, the more likely you are to be generous.

A more prosaic factor in dismal giving trends here was a massive embezzlement scandal at the heart of France's largest cancer research organization in 1996. The organization's contributions fell off by more than half the following year, and other French nonprofits have been affected by rekindled public mistrust in a sector's capacity to manage their contributions honestly and effectively.

Mr. Gentilini, Mr. Malet and others also reflected on another trend they find disturbing: The few people who make tax-deductible gifts, about one-quarter of the one-half of the population who pay taxes here, are inundated with mailings and other competing appeals to their generosity.

BLAIR: Prime Minister Makes Historic Plea for Peace in Irish Parliament

Continued from Page 1

"Let us not underestimate how far we have come, and let us agree that we have come too far to go back now," he said, seeming also to be speaking directly to the IRA, which has refused to disarm, when he added it was "time for the gun and the threat of the gun to be taken out of politics once and for all; for decommissioning to start."

"I am not asking anyone to surrender," he said. "I am asking everyone to declare the victory of peace."

Decommissioning is Ulsterpeak for disarmament.

The IRA and its political wing, Sinn Féin, insist, accurately, that the peace agreement specifies only that disarmament will take place by the spring of 2000. But leaders of Northern Ireland's Protestant majority insist that some disarmament must start soon, before Sinn Féin is allowed to participate fully in the new gov-

ernment structures to be created, giving Catholics more political power in the North.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, sat unsmiling in the visitors' gallery in the Parliament chamber in Leinster House. He is an elected member of the Parliament in London but refuses to take his seat because that would involve an oath of loyalty to the monarchy.

Mr. Adams's claim that Sinn Féin is independent of the IRA is a politically necessary fiction, in the view of the vast majority of Irish and Northern Irish people. He says the IRA's 16-month cease-fire is convincing evidence that they want peace.

"I reflect on the sheer waste of children taught to hate," Mr. Blair said, "who I believe passionately children should be taught to think."

"No one should ignore the injustices of the past, or the lessons of history. But too often between us, one person's history has been another person's myth."

"The old ways are changing between London and Dublin," he continued. "And this can spur the change and healing in Northern Ireland, too. The old notions of Unionists' supremacy and of narrow nationalism are gradually having their fingers pruned from their grip on the future."

Only a small minority of the Irish lawmakers can speak Gaelic, one of the two official national languages, but most know enough to applaud Mr. Blair's attempt, when he said, "Go raib niala mait againh," roughly, "From the bottom of my heart."

They also enjoyed the prime minister's statement that, "Ireland, as you may know, is in my blood."

His mother, he said, was born in County Donegal "above her grandmother's hardware shop. She lived there as a child, started school there and only moved when her father died, her mother remarried and they crossed the water to Glasgow."

BRIEFLY

Germans Charge Ex-Gestapo Agent

STUTTGART — German prosecutors said Thursday they had charged a 79-year-old man with involvement in the Nazi massacres of 17,000 people in Ukraine and Poland more than 50 years ago.

The former Gestapo secret police official, identified in media reports as Alfons Goetzfried, an ethnic German born in Ukraine, has been in investigative custody in the southwestern German city of Stuttgart since March.

He stands accused of aiding and abetting 17,000 murders, mostly of Jews, in 1942 and 1943, and of having killed 500 people himself.

After World War II, he spent 13 years in a Siberian prisoner-of-war camp. Prosecutors said the suspect had moved to Germany from Kazakhstan in 1991.

(Reuters)

Czech Curb on Pork 'Regretted' by EU

BRUSSELS — The European Commission said Thursday it regretted a Czech decision to restrict imports of pork from the EU and defended its own increase in export subsidies for pork as legitimate under global trade rules.

"It's a regrettable measure, particularly as the discussions are still going on," said Gerry Kiely, spokesman for the EU agriculture commissioner, Franz Fischler.

The Czech government Wednesday decided to scrap a preferential import duty of 15 percent on EU pork imports, raising the tariff to nearly 41 percent.

(Reuters)

Russia Candidates Might Be Screened

MOSCOW — Interior Minister Sergei Stepashin said Thursday that Russian authorities wanted new powers to check election candidates for criminal connections after the murder of a liberal parliamentarian.

Mr. Stepashin is heading the investigation into the killing last week of Galina Starovoitova in St. Petersburg, where liberals fear some of their rivals in a local election next month have links with criminals.

The interior minister said he would ask for "law enforcement agencies to be given the right to check connections between future candidates and the criminal world," according to the Itar-Tass news agency.

(Reuters)

Cokie Roberts for Rotterdam?

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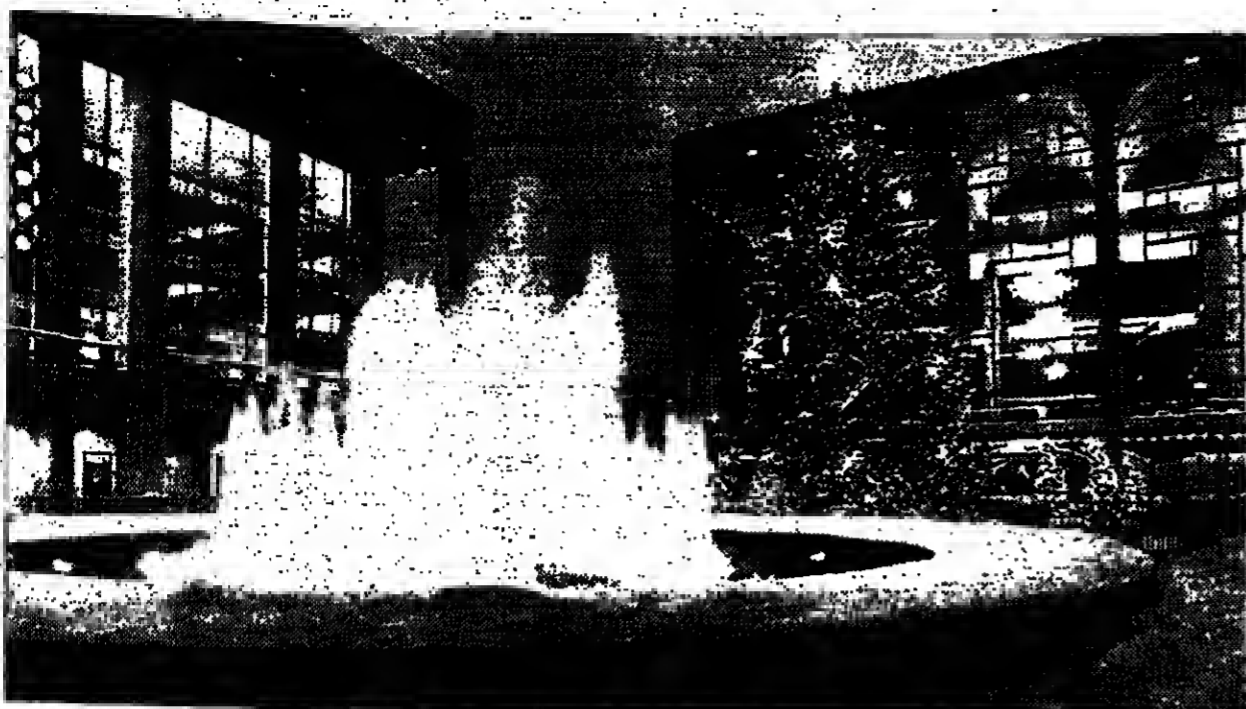
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HOLIDAYS IN NEW YORK



The annual tree lighting at Lincoln Center will take place on Dec. 3. Beverly Sills, chairwoman of Lincoln Center, hosts the festivities.

EVENTS FOR CELEBRATING THE SEASON

Always exciting, New York puts its best face forward for the holidays. A stroll down Fifth Avenue from 59th Street typifies the kind of delights that greet visitors. The world's largest menorah, an electrically lit behemoth commemorating the festival of lights, faces FAO Schwarz, the world's most famous toy store. At 57th Street, a giant snowflake beckons shoppers to the festive decorations in windows of nearby stores like Tiffany and Cartier.

A block away, window shoppers at Barneys can see what legendary window dresser Simon Doonan has dreamed up

this year (his most notorious display: a Simpson's Nativity). Further down, a huge decorated spruce tree towers over the ice skaters below at Rockefeller Center. Even the majestic Public Library at 42nd Street gets into the spirit, with giant wreaths around the guardian stone lions at the entrance.

Everything about New York seems more festive at this time of year, from the quiet, meandering streets of Greenwich Village to the pulsating nightclubs in West Chelsea.

Listed here are highlights of what's happening around town over the next weeks.

- Dec. 3: Tree lighting: The Lincoln Center tree lighting is always a popular event, partly because performers like vibed legend Lionel Hampton show up to provide music and carols, along with characters from "Sesame Street" and a host of others. Lincoln Center Plaza.
- Dec. 4-6: Holiday crafts: The Seventh Regiment Armory on Park Avenue is the site for the nation's premier crafts fair. Tel.: 1 800 649 0279 (in the United States).
- Dec. 5: "Amahl and the Night Visitors": The Little Orchestra Society performs Menotti's children's opera about the Three Wise Men — with a top ticket of only \$35. Avery Fisher Hall. Tel.: 1 212 971 9500.
- Dec. 6: "A Joyous Christmas Concert": The Choir of St. Bartholomew's Church and American Boychoir perform carols in this magnificent Midtown landmark. Tel.: 1 212 378 0248.
- Dec. 12-13: "A Baroque Holiday": The New York Chamber Music Symphony performs holiday favorites. Alice Tully Hall. Tel.: 1 212 262 6927.
- Dec. 13: "Holidays": The Boys Choir of Harlem sings with the New York Philharmonic. Avery Fisher Hall. Tel.: 1 212 875 5656.
- Dec. 13: "Holiday Four": A look at all of the pavilions at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and a heavenly concert by the Tuti Harps group. Tel.: 1 718 622 4433.
- Dec. 17: "A Cathedral Christmas": Excerpts from the "Messiah" and a carol sing-along at the world's largest Gothic cathedral, St. John the Divine. Tel.: 1 212 316 7449.
- Dec. 18: "The Messiah": You've never really heard it until you've heard it ringing off the walls of St. John the Divine. Tel.: 1 212 316 7540.
- Dec. 18-19: "A Pops Holiday Celebration": Jazz great Skitch Henderson leads a concert of hum-along favorites. Carnegie Hall. Tel.: 1 212 903 9750.
- Dec. 21: "Holiday Spirit from England": The King's Singers perform madrigals. Avery Fisher Hall. Tel.: 1 212 875 5656.
- Dec. 23: "Too Hot to Handel": An update of Handel's Messiah. Avery Fisher Hall. Tel.: 1 212 875 5656.
- Dec. 27: "Klezmerfest": If you've never heard this jazzy traditional Jewish music, catch the New York Philharmonic

jamming with the Klezmer Conservatory Band. Avery Fisher Hall. Tel.: 1 212 875 5656.

● Dec. 31: Midnight run: Believe it or not, thousands of people love to dress in outrageous costumes, including black tie and tails, for a foot race through Central Park. Tavern on the Green. Tel.: 1 212 860 4455.

● Dec. 31: "The Viennese Tradition": The New York Philharmonic performs waltzes and selections from "Der Rosenkavalier" and "Die Fledermaus" under Kurt Masur's baton in a New Year's Eve gala, with featured soprano Deborah Voigt. Avery Fisher Hall. Tel.: 1 212 875 5656.

● Through Jan. 3: "The Nutcracker": George Balanchine's definitive staging of the Christmas classic for the New York City Ballet makes its annual appearance. New York State Theater. Tel.: 1 212 875 5570.

● Through Jan. 7: "Christmas Spectacular": Radio City's world-famous extravaganza, with a full-life Nativity, razzle-dazzle special effects and the Rockettes in a high-kicking "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers." Radio City Music Hall. Tel.: 1 212 247 4777.

● Through Jan. 10: The Big Apple Circus: For three months, Damsch Park in Lincoln Center becomes the city's resident circus. Tel.: 1 212 268 2500.

● Through Jan. 10: Solstice Garden: The Conservatory Garden of the New York Botanical Garden becomes a winter fantasy, with rows of intricately lit pear trees leading to hedges fashioned from dry plants and a Gozzoli Tree with gilded fruit and marble orbs. Tel.: 1 718 817 8700.

● Through January: Christmas crèche: Dozens of Neapolitan crèche figures adorn a large spruce in the center of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's medieval collection. With Rockefeller Center, this is the city's most popular Christmas attraction. Tel.: 1 212 535 7710.

SHOPPING FOR HOTEL DEALS

Some of the city's finest are offering seasonal packages.

Finding a hotel room in New York during the holiday season can be as difficult as buying tickets to "The Lion King." But don't despair: The New York City Convention & Visitors Bureau's Peak Season Hotel Hotline can book hotel rooms during this period. The hot line includes available rooms in all price categories. Call 1 800 846 7666 in the United States. From abroad call 1 212 582 3352 or fax 1 212 924 7935.

Even though rooms are at a premium, some of the city's finest hotels offer seasonal specials. The following hotels are among those offering specials, subject to availability.

● **Doubletree Guest Suites**
Rates in December start at \$325 for a two-room suite and breakfast. A package offers guests dinner at Center Stage Cafe and tickets to either "Rent" or "Beauty and the Beast" for only \$85 per person. 1568 Broadway (47th Street). Tel.: 1 212 719 1600

● **Fitzpatrick Manhattan Hotel**
From Dec. 20 to 26, rates at this East Side business traveler's favorite are \$189 for a single and \$219 for a one-bedroom suite — a savings of over \$100 a night. 687 Lexington Avenue (56th Street). Tel.: 1 212 644 1985

● **Hotel Intercontinental**
Until Dec. 17, rooms are only \$199 (normally \$325-\$385); from Dec. 17 to 29, rooms are only \$189 — with half off on everything purchased in the hotel. 111 E. 48th Street. Tel.: 1 212 755 5900

● **Hotel Plaza Athénée**
From Dec. 14 until the end of February, the Winter Package offers a \$410 room for \$295, including continental breakfast or parking. 37 E. 64th Street. Tel.: 1 212 734 9100

● **The Lombardy**
This small, elegant hotel (marble bathrooms, seamstress, data-ports in rooms, etc.) charges from \$280 for a single room to \$360 for a suite. 111 E. 56th Street. Tel.: 1 212 753 8600

● **The Mark**
This Upper East Side hideaway has a Holiday Special from Dec. 20 until Jan. 10: One-bedroom suites, usually \$675, cost \$399; deluxe rooms with two twin beds, usually \$450, cost \$299. 25 E. 77th Street. Tel.: 1 212 744 4300

● **Morgan's**
Hip and chic Murray Hill is a favorite of the glitterati. During the week of Dec. 20, a \$295 room costs \$225. 237 Madison Avenue (37th Street). Tel.: 1 212 686 0300

● **New York Hilton**
With a booking of a double room for \$212 Dec. 19-30 and for \$222 in January, two people get tickets to the must-see Jackson Pollock retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art across the street. For \$389 for a double, a couple can eat at Tavern on the Green in Central Park or see one of seven Broadway shows — or be pampered at the hotel salon. Basic

"HOLIDAYS IN NEW YORK" was produced in its entirety by the Advertising Department of the International Herald Tribune. WRITER: Steve Weinstein in New York. PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Bill Mahder.

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On-line since June, this site by The New York Times offers information on events, arts and entertainment, restaurants, shopping, sports and leisure.
- <http://www.newyorkcitysearch.com/>
The site has listings for arts and entertainment, restaurants and hotels, shopping and services as well as several search options.
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OPINION/LETTERS

Why Does America Resist Prosecution of Tyrants?

By Kenneth Roth

NEW YORK — This has been a bad year for tyrants. War crimes courts for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia are up and running. A treaty establishing a permanent international criminal court won support this summer. Now Augusto Pinochet, who epitomizes the use of political violence to gain power, has found that his self-conferred amnesty extends no farther than the reach of his army's guns.

In a landmark ruling on Wednesday, the British Law Lords rejected immunity for the former Chilean dictator, giving the green light for his extradition to Spain.

Any human rights criminal surveying the scene would conclude that his prospects were dimming.

Symbols of this new legal order include Colonel Theoneste Bagosora, the mastermind of the Rwandan genocide, who fled to Cameroon only to be arrested and surrendered to the international tribunal, and Abdullah Ocalan, the "murderous" Kurdish rebel leader, who has had to flee from Syria to Russia to Italy, where he now faces the possibility of trial or extradition for his war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The U.S. government has been ambivalent about the changing landscape of international justice. It supports the Rwandan and Yugoslav tribunals. But it was one of only seven governments — including those of Iraq, Libya and Sudan — to vote against the

international court. And it remained disappointingly silent during the crucial weeks before the Law Lords decided whether General Pinochet could be extradited to Spain.

Washington's disquiet has two principal sources. First, it fears that these "legal" developments might unfairly jeopardize Americans. Second, it worries that they might make it more difficult to reach peace agreements or to persuade tyrants to step down.

Neither fear is justified. Some crimes are so heinous that those responsible can be tried anywhere. But the crimes subject to universal jurisdiction are limited to the most severe atrocities — offenses such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Other human rights violations such as censorship, discrimination and restrictions on labor rights, while contemptible, do not give rise to universal jurisdiction, meaning that the people who commit them are not subject to international justice.

The crimes of universal jurisdiction are clearly defined. Genocide and war crimes are spelled out in treaties. Crimes against humanity were defined at Nuremberg and in subsequent court rulings to involve certain severe acts of violence that are widespread or systematic, whether committed through peacetime repression or in time of war.

Clearly it is not U.S. policy to

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commit these horrendous crimes. So who should fear prosecution? Despotism, such as Idi Amin of Uganda, Raoul Cédras of Haiti, Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia, José Efraín Ríos Montt of Guatemala, even Fidel Castro of Cuba (for the many summary executions he ordered shortly after assuming power).

But will the concept be used to harass democratic leaders who have at worst a few human rights peccadilloes to their record? No. Universal jurisdiction does not extend that far, and there is no prospect that it will.

Some fear that Pinochet-like prosecutions will upset democratic transitions. But General Pinochet's arrest has not dis-

rupted Chilean democracy. Indeed, the elected president felt that democracy was so secure that he left the country at the height of the drama for a trade mission.

The Dayton peace accord shows that it is possible to negotiate peace with war criminals — in that case, President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia — without granting them amnesty from prosecution. Indeed, the indictment of the Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, by marginalizing them politically, helped make the accord possible.

Won't some tyrants cling to power rather than risk prosecution? The truth is, most dictators only give up power when the

erosion of their domestic and international support makes it impossible for them to maintain power. Efforts to prosecute them for their crimes will hasten that process of delegitimation.

What will make the system of international justice work is multilateral muscle. France, Switzerland and Belgium now have backed up Spain with extradition warrants for General Pinochet. The United States needs to state clearly and publicly that it, too, supports the idea of holding tyrants accountable for their crimes.

The writer is executive director of Human Rights Watch. He contributed this column to The Washington Post.

One Traveler's Fantasy: An 'In-Flight' Rebellion

By Geneva Overholser

ON THE TARMAC. Anywhere — You are deep in the center of a very large aircraft, waiting to take off.

You were engulfed, when you entered the plane, by a cloud of very hot, moist air. You noticed that nothing was stirring.

The other passengers were oddly quiet. Slack, semiconscious, they seemed somehow oppressed. They took your seat — a middle seat.

Now, a new passenger boards. Not yet acculturated, she sizes up the soporific state of the plane's

interior and its occupants, and opts for humor. "Are they pumping heat into this thing?" she cracks.

No one laughs. The woman next to you is very large. Her generous hip borders yours beneath the armrest — on which her arm rests. She has on a flowing jacket, which flows over the armrest onto your forearm.

The man on the other side is larger still. He has on a thick tweedy jacket, the arm of which occupies the other armrest. He is snoring lightly. Now and then he rouses himself, looks around and gives an aggrieved sigh before lapsing back into his stupor. The sigh feels cool on your hand.

His seems to be the right response to the ordeal you are all being subjected to. It is impossible to read, to write, to do anything you would normally do on a plane. It is impossible even to think clearly. Hibernating seems the best option.

Positioning your face under the weak stream of air leaking from the overhead nozzle, you try to enter that state. Your head lolls. But soon, despite your best efforts, an alternative form of behavior begins to take shape in your mind. A compulsion is building. You picture yourself pulling out of your sluggish state, unbuckling your seat belt, springing up and shouting: "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take this anymore!"

You imagine your cabinmates joining you in this revolution. First a brave few, soon all of them, row by row, each breaking the bonds and springing free. A hopeful feeling arises in your breast as you consider this rebellion, the rightness of it — surely a more logical response

than paying to be slowly steamed into oblivion. Then the man in front of you pushes his seat back into your knees. You are now jammed into the thick, heat-radiating padding of your chair. Every inch of your body is in contact with some dense, hot fabric. It is 10 minutes past departure time. You begin to fantasize about the oxygen mask in the panel above you. What if it were suddenly sprung free? Would the oxygen flowing from the mask be cool?

All at once the pilot comes on. His voice, incongruously, is cheery. He says that we must have noticed "the fellows" up front.

There are a few technical matters being attended to. Nothing serious. The delay shouldn't be long — maybe 20 minutes. "We invite you to sit back and relax," he says.

Sit back and relax? The man is utterly heedless of the stupefied misery of the hordes arrayed in serried ranks behind him. The passengers paw weakly, ineffectually, at the little nozzles above them. Nothing is emerging now. The air is stifling. From time to time, someone throws a pleading eye at a passing flight attendant. They walk briskly by. One stops briefly to offer a forced, "Don't you worry. Once the engines begin..."

At long last, unexpectedly, salvation comes. "Arm doors for departure," says the loudspeaker. Our release is at hand. The engines start up. Cool air flows fast and forceful from above. The passengers awaken like fairy tale princesses from a deep sleep. Chaner begins. Books come up from their supine position in laps.

We have been imprisoned, but now we are free. Drinks will come, movies will be shown, food (well, something, anyway) will be served. We will be on our way, and we will forget our misery.

But what about next time? The notes for this column are on a Northwest Airlines ticket folder. But you, dear reader, will recognize the scene from another flight, another airline, another destination.

How do they get away with it? Next time, rebellion!

Washington Post Staff

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Clinton and the 1996 Election

In "Clinton's Highest Crime: Stealing the '96 Election" (*Opinion*, Nov. 24), William Safire has framed the Clinton scandal machine in the proper context.

Mr. Starr's tactical blunder was to assume that the public shared his moral outrage. But the president's sycophants have succeeded in defining the Lewinsky matter as consensual sex between two adults, which strictly speaking it was not, and as an offense about which any gentleman would lie, and Mr. Starr therefore fails to justify the harsh penalty of removal from office.

Bill Clinton's defenders also argue that Republican extremists will stop at nothing

to reverse the electoral will of the American public. But, if Mr. Safire is correct, then the electoral will of the American people was criminally obtained.

Regardless of whether the disclosure of Mr. Clinton's abuses would have produced a different election result, this corruption sullies American democracy.

JIM FISHER,
Wassenaar, Netherlands.

As I recall, Mr. Clinton outpolled Bob Dole quite handsily in the 1996 election. Further, he has been and continues to be a better president than Mr. Dole could have been. I wish people like Mr. Safire and Kenneth Starr could understand that their

disliking a person, or even their serious moral opposition to a person's manner, thoughts, words, deeds, clothing or success, does not give them leave to distort truth, due process or civility in their zeal to bring about that person's destruction.

JEREMY SAXON,
Prague.

Kissinger and Pinochet

In response to "U.K. Lords Rule Against Pinochet" (Nov. 26):

With the detention of Augusto Pinochet and the prospects of a world community that takes greater responsibility with respect to human rights violators, one won-

ders what might happen to Henry Kissinger, one of the architects of the coup that brought Mr. Pinochet to power. What will become of him when next he ventures beyond the borders of the United States?

Perhaps he could be both a star witness and a co-defendant in a Pinochet trial?

MICHAEL F. DUNN,
Copenhagen.

Nothing to Celebrate

In response to "Carlos Ends Hunger Strike" (Nov. 25):

What a shame.

BRIAN J. CAMPBELL,
Wechelderzande, Belgium.

BOOKS

OPEN SECRET

Gay Hollywood 1928-1998

By David Ehrenstein, 372 pages, \$25, Morrow.

Reviewed by Kevin Allman

WITH its promise of sociology and scandal in equal doses, David Ehrenstein's "Open Secret" seems like a book published at just the right moment. After all, the love that once dared not speak its name is now the juicy cud of a million talk shows, and every week brings a fresh installment of "As the Closet Crumbles," with each born-again homosexual eager to tell all to God and Oprah.

Ehrenstein's timing couldn't be better — or more problematic. Attitudes are changing by the minute. "Basic Instinct," with its icepick-wielding lesbians, was a hot-button story in the gay community when it came out in 1992 — but as the journalists Lindsey Van Gelder and Pamela Brandt have pointed out, today it looks as dated as "Reefer Madness."

"Open Secret" never reaches any particular conclusion or thesis, which isn't surprising. But Ehrenstein, a veteran Hollywood critic and reporter (whom this reviewer knew slightly when we both worked for the *Advocate* years ago) knows his subject, and he has some pungent things to say about an industry that prides itself on its liberal heart but has banker's blood in its veins.

Hollywood has always been filled with homosexuals, and vast amounts of gelt and puffery have been expended in hiding that from a public that seems to care less than the moguls think it does. After Confidential magazine reported that Tab Hunter had once been arrested at an all-male "pajama party," Hunter regained a box-office draw. One year

later, a London reporter referred to Liberace as a "quivering, giggling, fruit-flavored, mincing, ice-cream-covered heap of mother love," and the pianist sued and won with no damage to his career. The lesson here seems to be that scandals have always been survivable — as long as the star is still bankable.

While it gives an overview of yesterday, "Open Secret" is most concerned with how the past illuminates the present, in a time when "outing" no longer means a Sunday drive. Ehrenstein doesn't shy away from discussing celebrities whose appeals for privacy aren't always consistent. Jodie Foster, he points out, refuses to discuss her romantic liaisons, citing her right to a personal life, yet the actress was hardly shy about cooperating with *People* magazine on a cover story about her pregnancy and single motherhood. Notes Ehrenstein, early: "Apparently childbirth is less 'personal' than dating."

You can't talk gay Hollywood without talking Ellen, of course, and much of "Open Secret" is dedicated to dissecting the over-dissected DeGeneres. Ehrenstein is admirably gimlet-eyed about the comedian's public coming-out (an event as strategized and staged as any other political campaign), but he seems to place the blame for the cancellation of "Ellen" on network squeamishness rather than on the fact that the show was only intermittently funny and never drew strong ratings. Ironically, sophisticated "straight" sitcoms, such as "Seinfeld" and "The Simpsons," have handled homosexuality more humorously and casually than strained "gay" shows like "Ellen" or "Will & Grace."

Perhaps that's because the press seems incapable of treating gayness offhandedly. Ehrenstein says, "Unlike

race or gender, religious belief or political persuasion, sexual orientation isn't viewed by the fourth estate as a neutral characteristic." As in the past, it's the tabloids that are leveling the playing field. It's the checkout-line press that prints front-page stories on Rosie O'Donnell's "galpal" as blithely and breathlessly as they do on Kathie Lee Gifford's latest marital tribulations, while traditional reporters get tongue-tied or avoid the subject entirely.

Mainstream journalists, Ehrenstein suggests, are still trying to figure out the boundaries, even as celebrities go public in ways that poke fun at the whole idea of coming out. As Nathan Lane told an interviewer last year: "I'm 40, I'm single and I work in musical theater — you do the math. What do you need, flashcards?"

And "coming out of the closet" is an increasingly old-fashioned notion because so many young Hollywood talents were never there to begin with. "I couldn't look any dykier," says the comedian Lea DeLaria, who has moved from gay club audiences to mainstream movie roles and Broadway.

There's always been a place in Hollywood for gays who play by the rules: open secrets have never been a barrier to talent when there's money to be made. But if "Open Secret" makes one point, it's that no one knows just what those rules are any longer. After all, in a particularly rich bit of irony, the man who signed off on the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy has now been outed more thoroughly, publicly and humiliatingly than any homosexual.

Kevin Allman, who reported on the entertainment industry from Los Angeles for 10 years and whose latest mystery novel is "Hot Shot," wrote this for The Washington Post.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

WHIST is the ancestor game of bridge, and two centuries ago Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Perigord, a Foreign Minister for various French governments including that of Napoleon, was an enthusiast. He once asked a young man if he played whist, and on receiving a negative answer showed dismay: "What a dull old age you are saving up for yourself."

Today, many older people would agree with that assessment. At a stage in life when many activities are more difficult, a regular bridge game is something to look forward to. It provides intellectual effort in a social setting, with verbal and mathematical skills getting a workout.

One of the oldest active players in the New York area is Dr. Sidney Sadolsky of Riverdale, the Bronx, who celebrated his 95th birthday in September. Recently, play-

ing at the Bridge Deck in Scarsdale, New York, he opened the South hand with two no-trump and played there.

After a low club lead he captured the jack with the king. Making eight tricks was fairly easy, but he wanted the overtricks that would furnish match points. The normal play in diamonds was to cash the ace, but he chose to lead low. West took the king and cashed the ace-queen of clubs in the hope of running the suit. East discarded the heart nine, and West shifted to that suit.

South captured the heart queen with the ace and cashed the diamond ace, uncovering the bad split. The position was now as shown at right. South now cashed his club nine, throwing a spade from the dummy, and East was finished. A diamond discard

would give South two extra tricks, and a major-suit discard would set up a winner for a second squeeze.

Dr. Sadolsky made 10 tricks, and may well be the first nonagenarian to execute a progressive squeeze to gain two tricks.

Both sides were vulnerable. The bidding: North: 1N, 2N, 3N, 4N, 5N, 6N, 7N, 8N, 9N, 10N, 11N, 12N, 13N, 14N, 15N, 16N, 17N, 18N, 19N, 20N, 21N, 22N, 23N, 24N, 25N, 26N, 27N, 28N, 29N, 30N, 31N, 32N, 33N, 34N, 35N, 36N, 37N, 38N, 39N, 40N, 41N, 42N, 43N, 44N, 45N, 46N, 47N, 48N, 49N, 50N, 51N, 52N, 53N, 54N, 55N, 56N, 57N, 58N, 59N, 60N, 61N, 62N, 63N, 64N, 65N, 66N, 67N, 68N, 69N, 70N, 71N, 72N, 73N, 74N, 75N, 76N, 77N, 78N, 79N, 80N, 81N, 82N, 83N, 84N, 85N, 86N, 87N, 88N, 89N, 90N, 91N, 92N, 93N, 94N, 95N, 96N, 97N, 98N, 99N, 100N.

West led the club six.

NORTH (D)
♠ 54
♥ 7532
♦ 10876
♣ 103

EAST
♠ 983
♥ 1082
♦ 9854
♣ 983

SOUTH
♠ AKQ7
♥ A12
♦ KQJ
♣ AKQ

WEST
♠ 54
♥ 7532
♦ 10876
♣ 103

EAST
♠ 983
♥ 1082
♦ 9854
♣ 983

SOUTH
♠ AKQ7
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Leisure

India's Painted Mansions

The Power and Faded Glory of Shekhawati

By Celia W. Dugger
New York Times Service

MANDAWA, India — The promise of an oasis in the Thar desert of Rajasthan lured us off the beaten path. A travel agent assured me and my family that a four-hour drive would take us from New Delhi to the small town of Mandawa. Once there, we would stay in an enchanting castle from the time of the maharajahs and wander through crumbling mansions richly adorned with images of kings and Hindu gods, gramophones and Victorian touring cars.

But four hours into the bone-rattling journey, Mandawa was still nowhere in sight, and it began to seem more mirage than oasis. After the state of Haryana, into Rajasthan, the roads became even more rutted and pitted. Loping caravans of camels and herds of sheep made picturesque roadblocks that regularly challenged the braking skills of our driver, Pan Singh. The sage and dun landscape was only occasionally brightened by yellow wildflowers and the crimson turbans of men trudging along the roadside.

Finally, six and a half hours after we set out, we arrived in Mandawa, in the Shekhawati region of Rajasthan, several hours' drive from the state's usual tourist draws, or an airport, for that matter. As we pulled into the grand square of Castle Mandawa, once the home of Rajput royalty and since 1980 a hotel for the jetset, we felt that we should have been riding in an elephant instead. To our great relief, the place immediately began to cast a spell on us all.

We went first to our suite, reached by a series of narrow stairways, courtyards and passages. It was romance incarnate. A four-poster bed was surrounded by

scalloped, alabaster arches and enclosed by lacy curtains that fluttered in a breeze cast by a ceiling fan. A big window seat, which looked out over the square, made the perfect spot to read a book.

Then it was back to the colonial veranda. There, courtly young men dressed in white kurta pajamas served us scrambled eggs, toast, french fries and fresh lime sodas. Fortified and with dusk oaring, we set out for a walk, led by Tejpal Singh, a guide on the Castle's staff. We threaded our way along winding, sandy alleyways past the once magnificent havelis, stately houses built by Marwaris, the famed traders of Rajasthan, who have spread out across India and the world to become some of the subcontinent's most successful entrepreneurs. Originally, they profited from the camel caravans that passed through Shekhawati along the great trading routes bearing spices and sandalwood, silks and saffron.

The local merchants — upper-caste Hindus and Jains — who built the havelis in the 19th century hired artists to paint them with images whimsical, fantastical, erotic and sacred. The mansions have an abandoned, decayed look now. Venetian in the grandeur of their faded glory. The fierce, sandy desert winds, the monsoons and time itself have effaced some of the paintings and softened the indigos, greens and reds.

The descendants of these rich men now live in Calcutta and Bombay. The havelis are mainly inhabited by aging chowkidars, or caretakers, and their extended families, who have often resided in them for 50 years or more. They welcome tourists and are grateful to those who offer a modest tip for the privilege of a peek inside.

To walk through Mandawa is to step back in time. There are very few cars or trucks. Women on foot balance wiry

stacks of kindling on their heads. The stucco village houses are washed in pastels of sky blue, mint and rose.

On the exterior wall of the Ladia Haveli, on the square, a steam train puffed along under a large painting of an elephant, which had a small barred window cut away in its belly for the haveli's residents to peer through. At the Saraf Haveli, where two barefoot girls in grimy party dresses scurried after each other, the grubby walls of the interior courtyards had fanciful paintings of a motor car and a flying machine.

THREE KILOS OF GOLD And in the Jhunjhunwala Haveli, the courtyard was strung with clotheslines draped with ancient sheets, emerald and pink saris and men's trousers. The owner, Rajhuwar Dayal, a clothing retailer, welcomed us into a spacious, sensuously paint-encrusted room. "There are three kilos of gold in the paintings," he said. He proudly waved to an image of a blue-faced Krishna dancing with his wife. The room was cast in a warm glow from small stained-glass windows of lime green, royal blue and deep red, their jewel tones echoing the fabulous royal ornaments once made for the princely courts of an earlier era.

Back at the Castle, we headed to a lovely interior courtyard that had been turned into a magical stage set for dinner. Tables laid with red tablecloths and flickering candles were scattered across the moonlit lawn. Lights in freened stone containers edged the balconies and walkways.

Guests ate from a plentiful Indian buffet and watched a campy, entertaining sideshow that thrilled the Italian, French and German tourists, their cameras snapping and video cameras whirring. A beautiful dancer in flowing orange chiffon picked up a 100-rupee



A Mandawa haveli, many of which were built in the 19th century and painted with images whimsical, erotic or sacred.

note on the ground with her teeth and never upset the tower of seven pots that teetered on her head. A hammy young man blew great puffs of fire from his mouth, like the Wizard of Oz. And a boy danced with a python around his neck.

Kesri Singh, the imposing, genial proprietor, who is himself a descendant of the raja of Mandawa, opened the castle to visitors in 1980 with just six rooms, and has since renovated 65 more, some of which used to be stables for the horses. No one, he told us, is trying to preserve the havelis that are the area's biggest tourist draw. "This area is quite neglected," he said. "It has no powerful spokesman."

The next morning, we decided to take

a look at Fatehpur, another town known for its havelis. "This boy will take you," Kesri said, gesturing to a middle-aged man who wore his Dick Dastardly mustache with a flourish. We all climbed into the Trooper for the 40-minute ride to Fatehpur along a single-lane road. Many a jeep and tourist bus, heavy with Indian passengers on their rooftops, hurried past us.

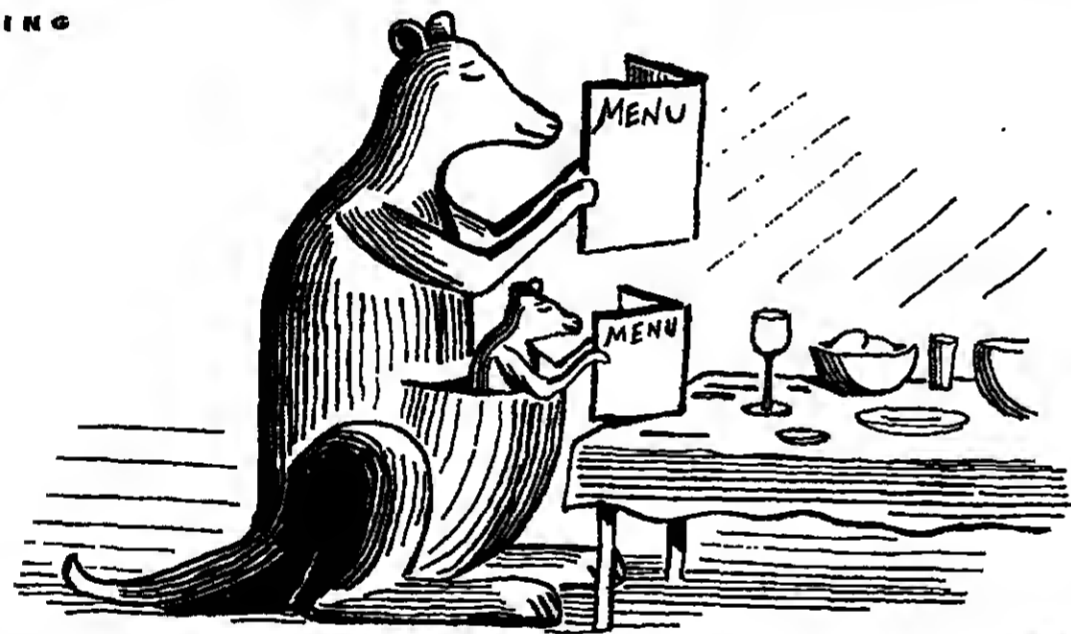
FATEHPUR is bigger than Mandawa and not as charming, but it does have some wonderful haveli paintings, with the ancient and the modern brushing shoulders, and the mark of the British Raj in the faces on the walls. At the Bhaisamal Kedia Haveli, the

chowkidar, Bhanwar Singh, showed us portraits of Queen Victoria and King George in the entry foyer.

We found that almost every block boasted a haveli. The Nan Lal Desai Haveli boasts paintings on glass of maharajahs; in the Bhagat Ram Jalan Haveli, long-necked camels galloped across the walls.

But many of the havelis are in a terrible state of decline. We stood opposite an abandoned one, its floors blocked by piles of garbage and earth, its fine stone screens almost invisible beneath a thick coating of grime. "There are 100 havelis in Fatehpur," said Riddhal Rajput, a young guide who had attached himself to us, "and 75 are locked up."

DINING



David Sorenson

A Defining Moment in Food

By Patricia Wells
International Herald Tribune

SYDNEY — If I am fortunate, it happens about once a year. It is what I have come to call the Defining Moment in food. I all but stop midline, and realize that I am in the presence of greatness. The room shakes. The most recent defining moment came in the Grange Restaurant in the Hilton International Hotel in Adelaide, Australia.

During a monthlong dining tour that included some of the best spots in Perth, Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, it was the Malaysian-born Chinese chef Cheong Liew's love poem for the palate that seemed to rocket me to another planet.

During the six-course tasting menu, Liew — who has been credited with the fusion of Eastern and Western flavors during the 1970s — provided food that fed the spirit, the soul, the body, and with each dish-and-wine pairing, I felt as though I was in the privileged presence of a genius who had complete mastery and control of his ingredients.

Like a musician with perfect pitch, this chef has an uncanny talent for balance, strength, harmony, nourishment. His food, which applies Asian methods to European flavor, has an extraordinary density of flavor, contrast of texture and a way of illuminating each ingredient without camouflaging the others.

So, his food is immensely satisfying. (When Stephanie Alexander, a top Australian chef, tasted Liew's food for the first time she announced "I had just better stop cooking.")

SHARK IN A POUCH

Such bold and complex dishes as shark's-fin pouch in venison consommé, spiced with tarragon, is a perfect example of his creative genius: A pasta-pouch filled with a sherry-tinged shark's-fin soup floats atop a rich veal consommé.

One is advised to consume most of the warming consommé first, then burst the pasta pouch filled with the soup, wild mushrooms, chicken and ginger. A garnish of tarragon makes this the perfect yin-yang dish, with the heat of the game and ginger, the coolness of shark's fin in a single, dramatic bite. Set off with a glass of Lustau Jarama Fino sherry, the dish creates a complete circle of flavors.

Another adventurous dish, red roas-

ted barramundi (a firm Australian fish) teamed up with green chili, coriander, snow-pea shoots and calamari shavings, makes for a memorable meal that pleases all the senses, with its herbal aroma, dense flavor, visual appeal and burst of sensations. You could almost hear the sound of the sea in the dish. Paired with an Evans and Tate semillon, it was a dish to savor and remember.

Using Liew's romantic, almost ornate cuisine as a starting point, one can easily see that Australia — which inherited a drab Anglo-Saxon diet not at all fitting to the island's climate or ethnic diversity — is in full flourish.

With a strong foundation of adventurous chefs, eager diners and a wildly expanding wine industry, there is nothing to hold Australia back. A visit 10 years ago covering the same territory suggested that there was promise. Today's Australian cuisine surpasses that promise.

The energy and sense of humor suggest that anything is possible here. Take the names of modern Australian restaurants — Salt, Dish, Tables, The Loose Box, MG Garage (yes, in an auto showroom) Fuel (yes, in a gas station), Café Sweethearts, France Soir, J'Fais (for the initials of the names of the owner's five children), Nudel Bar, Fishface, The Raving Prawn, The Little Snail, Medium Rare — and you see this is a nation that does not take itself too seriously.

The names of Australia's wines tell you a lot about the Australian sense of humor as well as lighthearted irreverence: RBJ Theologicum, Dead Man's Hill Gewurztraminer, Diva sangiovese, Abbot's Prayer merlot cabernet, Nine Popes, Chapel Hill The Vicar, Hill of Grace. But it is no laughing matter that Australia boasts some 800 wineries, most producing very high-quality wines. By the year 2010 Australia hopes to produce 15 percent of the world market in volume (and more by value) putting it fourth behind Spain, France and Italy.

Today one finds a lot of substance in Oz. As the Australian food writer Cherry Ripe points out, Australia is a European culture in an Asian-Pacific location. With chefs whose heritage include Malaysian, Japanese, French, British, Greek, Italian and native Australian, true fusion cuisine is not only possible but perfectly natural. The chefs are also in the midst of creating their own trademark style, one that reflects the ethnic populations, the seasons, the oceans, the hills and the lifestyles of this vast nation.

As with much of the rest of the mod-

ern world, the food of Australia is ingredient-driven, and by that I mean that the chef chooses to honor the prawns from the sea, the chicken from the farm, the fruits and vegetables from the garden, making them taste as much like themselves as humanly possible.

A fine, casual wine bar for sampling the nation's best wines. Try anything the waiter suggests, or, if they are on the list that day, go for one of those big Rhinoceros-style reds, such as the powerful RBJ Theologicum mourvedre grenache or Charles Melton's Nine Popes, starting with a lovely light Lenswood sauvignon blanc.

As the Australian food authority Maggie Beer noted, "We are learning from other countries' mistakes." And so this ecologically aware nation that is banning the caviar of the protected sturgeon, and pioneering fish farming as the waters bounty is increasingly depleted, is also creating a lively exchange between growers and restaurateurs, experimenting but with an intelligent eye.

Traveling from city to city, it was clear that chefs leave no stone unturned. They are unrestrained by tradition and offer a cuisine that is at once vibrant, fresh, innovative and well crafted.

THEY do make mistakes. All too often, I found chefs insisting on an East-meets-West cuisine when they had no technical ability to carry it out. It seemed that menus were filled with such items as Vietnamese Pho soup or Indian curry or Japanese sushi because the chef assumed diners expected this exotic blend. All too often, the dishes fell flat and were far less exciting than the real thing in an ethnic restaurant.

I hope to grab those jars of truffe oil from every Australian chef's hands: The powerful oil is used in excess, often making otherwise excellent dishes. Likewise, such appealing ingredients as arugula (almost always served with indigestible, weed-like stems intact) are used as a crutch, and Western-style breads often appeared simply awkward in many fusion menus.

Some practices — such as opening oysters beforehand and washing them under running water — seem simply naive and lazy. And a government that bans the creation and the import of raw-milk cheeses is surely misguided.

The high praise is fitting for perhaps only a small portion of restaurants. As Alexander remarked: "In Australia, if you know what you are doing, you can have the best of everything every day. But you will be alone." The circle, it is clear, needs to be enlarged.

Around the Tables of Australia

International Herald Tribune

The following is a list of the best restaurants visited during a month-long tour, with notes on some favorite dishes.

PERTH

The Loose Box Restaurant, 6825 Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring. Tel: (61-8) 9295-1787.

If Michelin gave stars in Australia, Alain Fabregues's The Loose Box would have three. It is the epitome of French perfection and attention to detail. I loved the colorful goat cheese, truffle, mushroom, eggplant, tomato and capers terrine for its brilliant flavors and welcoming texture.

Fraser's, Fraser Avenue, King's Park, West Perth. Tel: (8) 9481-7100.

Chris Taylor of the welcoming Fraser's, in the center of a lovely park, offers honest fare. Such dishes as his char-grilled dhal fish fillet with lemon, extra virgin olive oil and parsley show how the chef wisely allows perfectly chosen ingredients to speak for themselves.

ADELAIDE

Universal Wine Bar, 285 Rundle St., Adelaide. Tel: (8) 8232-5000; fax: (8) 8232-5757; e-mail: universal@porio.net.au

A fine, casual wine bar for sampling the nation's best wines. Try anything the waiter suggests, or, if they are on the list that day, go for one of those big Rhinoceros-style reds, such as the powerful RBJ Theologicum mourvedre grenache or Charles Melton's Nine Popes, starting with a lovely light Lenswood sauvignon blanc.

Charlick's Feed Store, Ebenezer Place, East End, Adelaide. Tel: (8) 8232-7566; fax: (8) 8232-7065.

This new, casual dining spot is owned by Maggie and Colin Beer, modern pioneers of the Australian food world. Try the smoked tommy ruffs (sardine-size fish) with green olive and pickled lemon dressing, and sample alongside it a glass of the refreshing white Chapel Hill McLaren Vale verdelho, made from the Portuguese verdelho grape with overtones of honey-suckle and tropical fruits.

The Grange, Hilton International, Victoria Square, Adelaide. Tel: (8) 8217-2000.

If you have time for only one meal in Australia, head for the Grange to sample Malaysian-born Chinese chef Cheong Liew's shark's-fin pouch in venison consommé, spiced with tarragon, a dish that is filled with bravery and brilliance, or his red roasted barramundi with green chilies, coriander, snow-pea shoots and calamari shavings, a dish with such genius you won't want to finish it, for all you'll have left is the memory.

Petaluma Bridgewater Mill, Mount Barker Road, Bridgewater. Tel: (8) 8339-3422.

This trendy spot just outside Adelaide is run by the Petaluma winery and showcases its wines. Try the



Croser champagne, as well as the fried salt-and-pepper quail with lime and ginger relish, or the roasted duck breast with bok choy, kumquats and cinnamon glaze.

SYDNEY

Cicada, 29 Challis Ave., Potts Point, Sydney. Tel: (61-2) 9358-1255.

Peter Doyle has reached the pinnacle of modern Australian cooking. His food is seamless, unconventional, balanced and sensible; I fell in love with his perfect jewel box of a package: avocado, crab, mint and coriander, a starter that was like a soothing bath for the palate.

Tetsuya's, 729 Darling St., Rozelle, Sydney. Tel: (2) 9555-1017.

Tetsuya Wakuda is a leader of Australia's fine fusion cuisine, merging the best of Japanese philosophy and classical French technique. In a most unassuming setting, plan on sampling his signature confit of ocean trout with ocean-trout roe, braised red capsicum, leeks, koobu seaweed, capers and parsley oil. Think texture, color, flavor, essence.

Bistro Moncur, the Woolahra Hotel, 116 Queen St., Woolahra, Sydney. Tel: (2) 9363-2782.

Damien Pignolet offers great Australian-style French bistro classics in an embracing, warm setting in one of Sydney's most chic neighborhoods. Try the vegetable couscous.

MG Garage, 490 Crown St., Surry Hills, New South Wales. Tel: (2) 9383-9383.

The new trendy spot, with the Greek-born chef Janni Kyritsis, is actually in an MG car showroom. Specialties include guinea fowl baked in clay with pancetta, mushrooms and barley pilaf, as well as many dishes with a fine, Middle Eastern touch.

BRISBANE

Two Small Rooms, 517 Milton Road, Toowong, Brisbane. Tel: (61-7) 3371-5251.

One of the best bets in Brisbane. This warm and charming spot run by Michael Conrad and the chef David Pugh offers lovely, simple fare. Try

their outstanding mud-crab omelette with stir-fried vegetables and spicy prawn sauce.

This is one place where I was able to get a simple roasted rack of lamb without the trimmings that camouflage the delicate flavor. Their Mandolung lambs are slaughtered at 9 months. They are weaned at 3 months and fattened on grain for better texture and flavor.

E'cco, 100 Boundary St., Brisbane. Tel: (7) 3831-8344.

Philip Johnson offers no-nonsense food in a lovely setting. He uses all the clichés in the book, but his creations manage to taste original and appealing.

Try the Moreton Bay bugs, a type of shellfish, with pine nuts and stili; roast chicken with couscous, yogurt, artichokes and asparagus, or sand crabs with chilies and lemon oil. Save room for the Venetian espresso cake with coconut ice cream and shavings of fresh coconut.

Pier Nine Oyster Bar & Seafood Grill, Eagle Street Pier, 1 Eagle St., Brisbane. Tel: (7) 3229-2194.

This is a beautiful waterside setting for great oysters, and such specials as king prawns with garlic hollandaise or Victoria black-lip mussels with ginger, chili, sweet curry leaves and lime juice.

MELBOURNE
Flower Drum, 17 Market Lane, Melbourne. Tel: (61-3) 9662-3653.

For Chinese food like you have never had before, depend on the owner Gilbert Lau to wow you with such specialties as tender baby abalone the size of an oyster, bathed in vinegar, ginger and soy. The dish was a gastronomic revelation.

Richmond Hill Café & Larder, 48-50 Bridge Road, Richmond. Tel: (3) 9421-2808; fax: (3) 9421-2818.

Stephanie Alexander, one of Australia's top restaurateurs and food personalities, has opened this casual eatery with an exquisite cheese room, great wines and a modern menu that includes pastas, such traditional fare as bouef à la mode and cheese plates with fruits, nuts and breads. Sunday nights are reserved for a variety of functions, such as cabaret nights and wine dinners.

Patricia Wells



The Mighty Formaggio di Fossa

The Odoriferous Soul and Pride of a Small Italian Town

By Kate Singleton

SOGLIANO AL RUBICONE, Italy — An odoriferous soul is what distinguishes Sogliano al Rubicone from the numerous small towns that nest on the lower slopes of the Apennines facing Rimini and the Adriatic sea.

Far from causing embarrassment, the pungent, fetid smells that pervade the air, the streets and the houses have long been a source of pride and income. Indeed, in early winter people flock from far and wide to relish the cause of such overpowering olfactory assault: formaggio di fossa, cheese that is buried for three months in deep straw-lined pits until it ripens to a point of almost offensive maturity.

No one knows quite why or when the people of Sogliano first started storing cheese in the underground grain silos that their ancestors dug out of the tufa stone beneath their homes in medieval times.

"During the 12th century numerous castles were built in this area," said Oliver Ortolani, a town councillor who has done much to promote the fame of formaggio di fossa beyond these valleys, "and Sogliano itself became a fief of the Malatesta family."

Bloody quarrels often broke out between the lords of one castle and the next, and in the case of Sogliano between different branches of the same family. Certainly concealing cheese in pits was a way of ensuring that a precious source of protein never fell into enemy hands. Once the pits have been filled with freshly made cheeses they are sealed and paved over with cobbles or

brick, thus becoming invisible to the unpracticed eye.

Ortolani is steeped in knowledge of local traditions because his father used to work as an *infossatore*, or cheese burier, a job that calls for considerable skill. The shafts are bottle-shaped, around 3 meters deep and 2 meters wide. To perform their enzymatic alchemy to perfection they require special preparation. Excessive humidity and undesirable micro-organisms are eliminated by burning straw inside the pits.

Their walls are then lined with fresh straw tucked behind cane supports, while the floor is covered with boards. In this way the cheese does not come into direct contact with the tufa stone and residual whey can drain away.

The traditional day for depositing the cheeses is Aug. 16. Ideally they should contain two thirds cow's milk and one third sheep's milk, but other ratios also produce a fine cheese, as long as the pastures are good. Ortolani says: "Although connoisseurs can distinguish a pit cheese that contains a greater percentage of ewe's milk or has been seasoned earlier, what really counts is the quality of the milk. You won't get good pit-matured cheeses from herds raised intensively down on the plain and fed on grain."

The cheeses are wrapped in white calico bags marked with their weight and the owner's initials. They are packed into the pits and pressed down by foot until the shaft is full to the neck. Next comes a wooden lid, and atop this sand and the paving that lies flush with the floor or street.

For centuries the ceremonial opening of the pits took place each Nov. 25, when

farmers would return to Sogliano from the countryside to claim their goods and pay their dues. To this day the owners of the town's dozen or so active pits take a fee for manuring the cheese according to its weight. Although there are still several independent cheese makers using the pits, nowadays the bulk of the formaggio di fossa is handled by merchants who have understood the curious appeal of such a mephitic gastronomic delicacy.

Demand for the cheese is becoming so widespread that the festivities surrounding the opening of the pits now stretch through the last two weekends of November to the first weekend of December. They include a market, cheese-tasting stands and special menus at local restaurants. The atmosphere is joyously rank and redolent: living history, but not for the faint of nose.

LIKE all successful products, Sogliano's formaggio di fossa now has its imitators. The town produces about 132,000 to 154,000 pounds (60 to 70 metric tons) a year, yet pit-matured cheeses of various sorts are now found in specialty stores throughout central and northern Italy.

To protect its name and fame, the Sogliano cheese makers association is now lobbying to obtain a "Denomination of Protected Origin." This involves circumscribing the geographical provenance of the cheese and defining its sensory qualities: the strong smell, of course, but also its sharp, distinctive flavor and its lean, crumbly consistency.

Kate Singleton is a writer based in Italy.

MOVIE GUIDE

ENEMY OF THE STATE

Directed by Tony Scott, U.S.

Though "Enemy of the State" finds a flimsy excuse for setting one scene amid lingerie models, babes have nothing to do with its notion of sex appeal. Instead, it's the gigahertz that are hot in a thriller that treats technology as its highest turn-on. High-tech surveillance ("Enhance, then forward frame by frame") is at the heart of this latest spashy collaboration between Tony Scott and Jerry Bruckheimer ("Top Gun," "Crimson Tide"), with its premise that privacy is imperiled by runaway electronics. This much is certain: It has a hurtling pace, nonstop intensity and a stylish, appealing performance by Will Smith. As a grand old man of the thrill-happy genre, Scott gives this film a fine cast, a modicum of wit on the run and a reasonably human dimension. As Gene Hackman, playing an eccentric technology wiz, finally admits about Smith's lawyer-turned-action hero: "Not too stupid after all." Smith, plays Robert Clayton Dean, an upright and happily married lawyer who winds up, quicker than you can say John Grisham, being targeted, chased and spied on by ruthless forces within the National Security Agency. Needless to say, the "hack" factor is considerable. How exactly does Dean go from peace and quiet to a scene in which he must run away from a helicopter, a truck and a train simultaneously? The screenplay by David Marconi seems to be wired with its own self-destruct mechanism, so that it works within the moment but stops making sense the minute you walk out the door. But Scott comes up with enough sizzly equipment, wild chases and explosive notions (like blowing up the original Dr. Pepper factory in Baltimore) to keep the story moving faster than the speed of scrutiny. And he does use sharp, video-influenced editing more effectively than most (though John Frankenheimer's "Romeo" achieved the same high velocity without benefit of MTV tricks). The film's juxtapositions, sharp angles, jump cuts and aerial surveillance shots (like the Gulf War) have a rhythm that touches the material. And Scott avoids tics of overkill, like pumped-up emotional heft or an overlay of musical schmaltz. The film's horde of foxy screens, transmitters, buttonhole cameras and laptops probably deserve an acting credit of their own. (Janet Maslin, NYT)

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY

Directed by George Miller, Australia.

No piggy makes bacon out of the little ham but the G rating of "Babe: Pig in the City" isn't exactly kosher. Unlike the warm, whimsical original "Babe" set on the Hoggetts' family farm, the darkly funny sequel takes place on the mean streets of a fantastically inventive but forbidding fairy tale city. Life there is a daily struggle for the dogs, cats and other urban creatures that have been alley-born or abandoned by their humans. Not that the humans themselves fare much better. Babe (voice by E.G. Daily) and the farm lady, Mrs. Hoggett (Magda Szubanski), have traveled to this faraway dystopia after our snout-bearded hero causes Farmer Hoggett (James Cromwell) to fall down a well and wind up in traction. They have a plan to save their heavily mortgaged acreage. Though bound for a state fair to collect a performance fee, the two are detoured to this bizarre, "Brazil"-like Oz, where they befriend a troupe of circus monkeys, a chorus of cats and a disabled terrier in a doggie wheelchair. Streetwise, surly, neurotic. The creatures of this concrete jungle aren't as lovable as Babe's barnyard buddies. They're like sophisticated pair versions of the characters in "Lady and the Tramp"; they sound like jaded molls and mobsters. George Miller, who produced and co-wrote "Babe," left it to Chris Noonan to direct the 1995 Oscar nominee. But Miller, who created the "Mad Max" franchise, takes the camera into his own hands here with results that are technically sublime, but emotionally harrowing. "Babe" didn't shrink from humankind's appetite for sausage links or other unpleasant realities, but "Pig in the City" is a far grimmer tale, involving homelessness, starvation and attempted infanticide. In one instance, a pit bull becomes entangled in its leash and tumbles from a bridge, where he seemingly hangs all dead. Though the plucky porker comes to the rescue, the scene is far too long and too macabre for adults, much less wee viewers. Still, along with Ferdinand the duck, the singing mice are back with an expanded repertoire. This is hardly your same old troupe of stop. Babe nonetheless prevails, demonstrating once again "how a kind and steady heart can heal a sorry world." (Rita Kempley, WP)



Will Smith left and Gene Hackman in "Enemy of the State."

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ARTS GUIDE

AUSTRIA

VIENNA
Kunstlerhaus, tel: (1) 52-177-404, closed Mondays. To Feb. 21: "Jemen. Kunst und Archäologie im Land der Koeniginnen von Saba" Items excavated in the land of the Queen of Sheba, today's Yemen. The funerary stela and idols, the relief panels and other items illustrate the period when Yemen became receptive to Mediterranean influences.

BRITAIN

LONDON
British Museum, tel: (171) 236-155, open daily. To Jan. 10: "Mantegna to Rubens." Drawings by Mantegna, Correggio, Vasari and Parmigianino. Some are elaborate works, others are rapid sketches showing the creative process of the artist at work. Also, to Jan. 10: "Claude Lorrain." Twenty etchings and 30 drawings, including preparatory drawings and nature studies.

Tate Gallery, tel: (171) 887-8000, open daily. To Feb. 14: "Turner in the Alps." More than 65 works on paper reveal the British artist's impressions of the Alps during his first trip to continental Europe in 1802. The display also includes watercolors made upon his return to England.

DENMARK

COPENHAGEN
Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, tel: 49-19-07-19, open daily. To Feb. 7: "Frank O. Gehry." Focuses on the architect's formal concepts and working processes. Some of Gehry's most recent realizations include the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, and the Vitra Design Museum in Weil-am-Rhein, Germany.

FRANCE

PARIS
Fondation Electricite de France, tel: 01-55-63-23-45, closed Mondays and holidays. To Jan. 17: "Fictions Intimes." Fiction in photographs, from Surrealists such as Man Ray, Hans Bellmer to realist photographers such as Diane Arbus, Carter-Bresson and Doisneau. The works are mainly portraits, bodies and narrative photographs. Petit Palais, tel: 01-42-76-65-65, closed Mondays. To Feb. 14: "Saverio Assisi." Paralleling the launch of the renovation campaign of the Assisi basilica that was hit by an earthquake a year ago, the exhibition brings together paintings, religious books and implements from the Basilica Treasury.

GERMANY

DUSSELDORF
Kunstmuseum, tel: (211) 89-92480, closed Mondays. To Jan. 24: "Angelika Kauffman: Retro-spektive." More than 200 works, including 140 paintings, by the Swiss portrait and genre painter (1741-1807). Kauffman became one of the founding members of the Royal Academy in London in



Beckmann's "Snake Charmer," on show in Jerusalem.

the 1750s, before returning to Rome where her portraits and history paintings were in demand by European nobility. The exhibition will travel to Munich.

ISRAEL

JERUSALEM
The Israel Museum, tel: (2) 6708-811, open daily. To Feb. 2: "The Joy of Color: The Morzbacher Collection." Showcases a private collection of more than 130 modern paintings and sculptures. Among the 77 artists are the Fauves (Matisse, Derain, Vlaminck); the German Expressionists (Kirchner, Nolde); Paul Klee (with six works); the Italian Futurists (Balla, Boccioni, Severini); the Russian Avant-Garde (Goncharova, Larionov); and Abstract Expressionists (Sam Francis).

ITALY

MILAN
Fondazione Prada, tel: (2) 546-70216, closed Mondays. To Jan. 6: "Sam Taylor-Wood." One of the most widely discussed exponents of "New British Art," Taylor-Wood (born 1957) is showing new large-format photographs and a video installation.

JAPAN

OSAKA
Suntory Museum, tel: (6) 577-0001, open daily. To Jan. 24: "Baccarat: L'Eclat de la Lumiere." On loan from the Baccarat Museum in Paris, approximately 400 items dating back to the first objects created in the 1830, including 70 perfume bottles.

NETHERLANDS

AMSTERDAM
Rijksmuseum, tel: (20) 671, open daily. To Feb. 28: "Sawase: Japanese Export Art in Black and Gold." "Sawase" means luxury objects produced in the 17th and 18th centuries in Japan and China. These tobacco boxes, buttons, buckles and knobs for walking sticks were made from gold, lacquered in black and decorated with gilded reliefs.

PORTUGAL

LISBON
Fundacao Arpad Szenes-Vieira da Silva, tel: (1) 388-0044, closed Tuesdays and public holidays. To Jan. 31: "Alberto Giacometti." On loan from the Maeght Foundation in southern France, 19 sculptures and 20 drawings, most of them

representing the human figure. After experimenting with Cubism and Surrealism, the sculptures of the Swiss artist (1901-1966) began to take on the elongated form for which he became famous.

SOUTH KOREA

SEOUL
Ho-Am Art Museum, tel: (0335) 20-18-51, closed Mondays. To Dec. 31: "Auspicious Dreams: Decorative Paintings of Korea." A selection of works from the museum's expanded collection.

SPAIN

BILBAO
Guggenheim Museum, tel: (94) 435-90-00. To March 7: "Robert Rauschenberg: A Retrospective." Highlighting his painting and sculpture, the exhibit brings together 300 works by the U.S.-born artist. It captures his practice of working in diverse mediums and presents his collaboration in the performing arts and in technology-based works.

SWITZERLAND

LAUSANNE
Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts, tel: (21) 316-3445, closed Mondays. To Feb. 21: "Courbet, Artist and Entrepreneur." The exhibition examines the French painter's efforts at reaching out to a public of dealers and collectors, with provocative nudes, genre figures and hunting scenes. In his landscapes, Courbet (1819-1877) followed the anti-academic attempts of plein-air painters.

UNITED STATES

BALTIMORE
Walters Art Gallery, tel: (410) 547-9000, closed Mondays. To Jan. 3: "The Invisible Made Visible: Angels from the Vatican." More than 100 paintings, sculptures and other images of angels spanning more than 2,000 years from Assyrian, Etruscan, Greek, Roman and Christian traditions. Features works by Raphael, Rari, Fra Angelico, Rouault and Dali.

NEW YORK

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, tel: (212) 708-9400, closed Wednesdays. To Feb. 2: "Buffet to De Kooning: Expressionist Prints from Europe and America." A variety of prints by contemporaries of Jackson Pollock in the 1940s, '50s and '60s. Also features works by Motherwell, Hartung, Soulages and Abochinsky.

WASHINGTON

THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION, tel: (202) 337-2151, closed Mondays. To Jan. 3: "Impressionists in Winter: Effets de Neige." Focusing on snowscapes by Monet, Sisley and Pissarro, the exhibition also includes winter landscapes by Callebote, Renli and Gauguin.

Compiled by Elisabeth Hopkins

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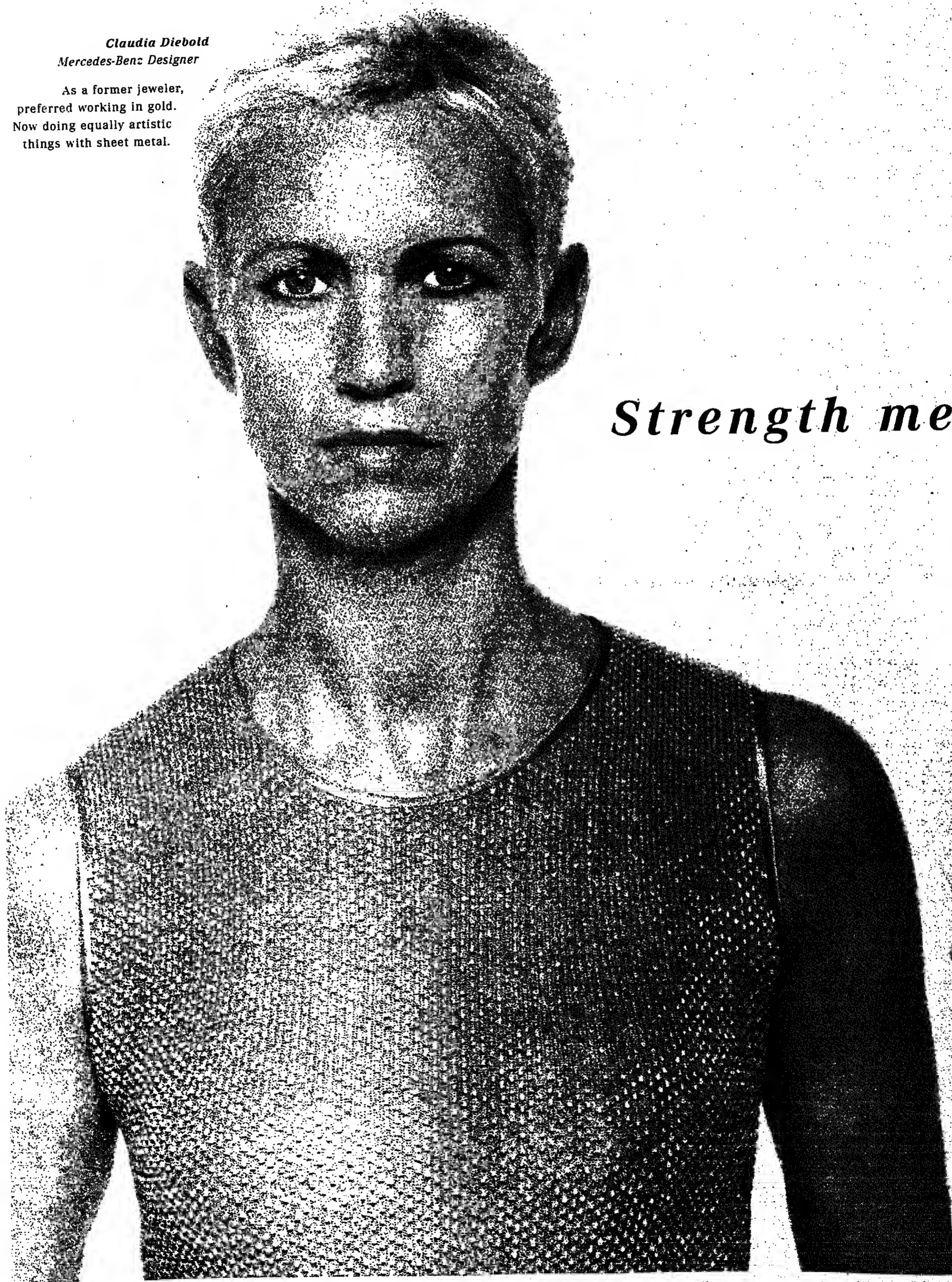
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INTERNATIONAL

Thousands Turn Out for Funeral of Iran Dissident

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TEHRAN — Tens of thousands of mourners, some chanting anti-government slogans, gathered in Tehran on Thursday at the funeral of a murdered opposition leader and his wife.

The crowd turned the ceremony for the opposition leader, Darius Forouhar, and his wife, Parvaneh, at the Fakhri mosque into a nationalist rally.

Mourners carried portraits of the couple, found dead in their Tehran apartment Sunday, and chanted "Death to tyranny" and "Freedom of thought forever." Others sang patriotic songs and celebrated the late nationalist leader Mohammed Mossadegh, who helped inspire Mr. Forouhar and his small Iran National Party.

"Do you see the crowd?" said one of the organizers. "It shows how deeply rooted Iran's national movement and the ideals of Mossadegh are in the hearts of the people."

In a strong speech to Intelligence Ministry officials Thursday, President Mohammed Khatami said Mr. Forouhar's killers must be brought to justice.

"The murder of the late Mr. Forouhar is condemned," he said. "The government, and especially the intelligence network, have a very important duty to confront it. If we don't deal with the crime seriously, and not identify the culprits, the episode will not only constitute a disrespect for our system, it will become the beginning of more problems to come."

At one point the crowd streamed past a row of buses waiting to take them to the cemetery, instead heading toward the site of the former Parliament, a symbol of Iran's struggle for independence.

Policemen barred the way and there were minor scuffles. There were no apparent injuries and no sign of any attempt by political rivals to disrupt the proceedings.

The police said Wednesday that they had made a number of arrests in the murder case.

Mr. Forouhar served as labor minister in Iran's first government after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. His party, illegal but tolerated, publishes a newsletter that often carries reports of what it says are human rights violations. (Reuters, AP)

Khatami Condemns Bus Attack
Mr. Khatami condemned on Thursday an Islamic militant attack on a bus carrying American tourists, saying it was a national disgrace. The Associated Press reported from Tehran.

"The ugly, perverse and possibly conspiratorial treatment of foreign tourists, and those who are officially visiting Iran with valid visas, was an affront to the honor of the Iranian people," Tehran radio quoted Mr. Khatami as saying in a speech to Intelligence Ministry officials.

Radicals chanting "Death to America" and wielding iron bars and throwing stones smashed the windows of a bus carrying 13 foreigners, mostly Americans, in Tehran on Saturday. Devotees of Islam, a radical Muslim group that has been dormant for many years, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Placental Blood: A Simpler Transplant Than Bone Marrow

By Denise Grady
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — For people who need bone-marrow transplants to fight leukemia or other deadly diseases, but who lack a compatible marrow donor, doctors are salvaging hope from a curious source, one that is normally thrown away: blood left in the umbilical cords and placentas of newborn infants.

In the largest study of placental blood use to date, in 562 patients, including more than 400 children, survival rates were similar to those in studies using bone marrow from unrelated donors who perfectly matched the recipients on tissue typing tests. The procedure worked in many cases

even when the placental blood was not perfectly matched to the patients' tissue. The researchers referred to placental blood, but it is widely known as cord blood.

Patients in the new study were gravely ill with leukemia, lymphoma, other cancers or genetic diseases, and were given cord blood as a last resort because bone marrow donors had not been found for them, or because they were considered too sick to wait the months it could take to find a marrow donor.

The results, published Thursday in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, were announced Wednesday by Dr. Pablo Rubinstein, head of immunogenetics at the New York Blood Center in Manhattan. The center has been banking placental

blood since 1993 and provided it to 98 hospitals in the United States and overseas that took part in the study.

Because cord blood is readily available, it could be a huge boon to thousands of people who need marrow transplants. Moreover, cord blood is less likely than bone marrow to transmit infection, and it is collected at no risk to the donor. Donors of bone marrow must undergo a surgical procedure and anesthesia when their marrow is harvested.

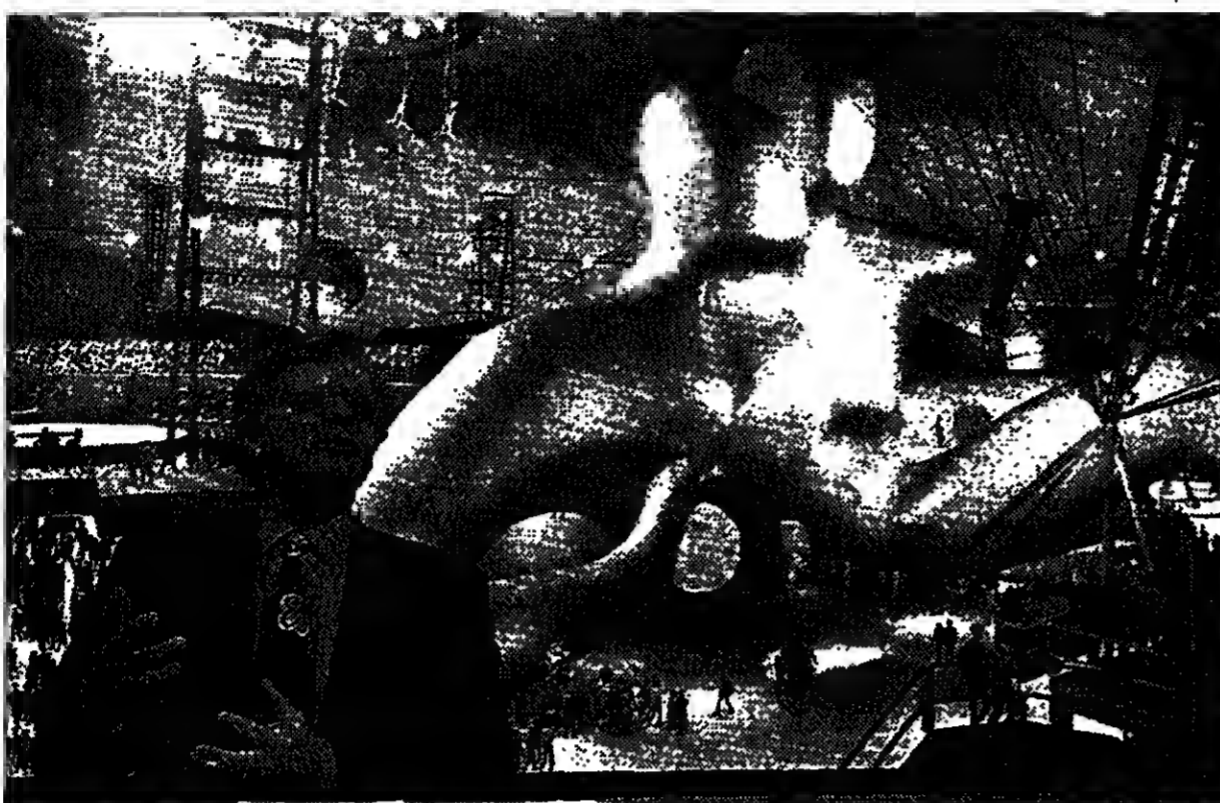
Earlier, smaller studies had suggested that cord blood might be a possible alternative to bone marrow transplants, but researchers said they were heartened by Dr. Rubinstein's findings because of their scope and because patients involved had fared better than might have been expected. All

had been extremely ill, many in advanced stages of disease after long periods of waiting in vain for a bone marrow donor.

Still, by 100 days after cord blood transplantation, 218 of the 562 had died. A similar rate would be expected with bone marrow transplants from unrelated donors in such severe cases.

Dr. Claude L'Enfant, director of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, which funded the study but did not take part in it, said in a telephone interview, "The prospects are quite fantastic in my opinion. The work from the New York Blood Center is really a landmark study."

But Dr. L'Enfant also tempered his remarks, adding that cord blood transplants are an emerging treatment that must be studied further.



SHAPE OF THE FUTURE — Michael Grade, an official of the Millennium Dome in London, after unveiling a computer image Thursday of the abstract human figures that will dominate the interior of the structure.

Saddam Vows to Keep Fighting 'Hostile' Demands on Baghdad

Agence France-Presse

BAGHDAD — President Saddam Hussein vowed Thursday to fight on in his resistance to demands for key weapons files.

"Iraq will continue, on the same path, its fight against its enemies," he said, denouncing, without naming, the United States for its "pursuit of a hostile policy toward the Arab world."

"After years of fighting, Iraq has become a model of resistance for the Arab world," the official Iraqi press quoted Mr. Saddam as saying.

His comments came as the international community failed to show a united front to Iraq's defiance of demands by the chief UN arms inspector, Richard Butler, for key documents on biological, chemical and ballistic weapons.

The UN Security Council threw its support behind UN weapons inspec-

tors Tuesday but refrained from saying whether Iraq's refusal to hand over the documents was a violation of a promise of cooperation, made Nov. 14 under the threat of bombing.

A senior Iraqi diplomat hailed the Security Council declaration as a victory for Baghdad and a snub of hard-liners in Washington and London.

"It was a snub for the United States and Britain, who were unable to convince the Security Council to adopt a hostile declaration which could lead to attacks," said Salah Mokhtar, the incoming Iraqi representative to the UN, said Wednesday.

President Bill Clinton's top security advisers met late Wednesday in their second meeting in as many days to discuss Iraq's refusal, and the tone from the White House remained tough. But Washington has not said whether Iraq's refusal could lead to military reprisals.

Israel Blacklists Archives Its Says Are Uncooperative

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel is calling for the opening of international Holocaust-era archives and has published a list of repositories that officials say have put obstacles in the way of researchers.

In a letter made public this week, Bobby Brown, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's adviser on Diaspora affairs, named a dozen archives in Europe and Russia that "have refused or have been uncooperative in sharing information."

"We appeal to each institution listed to open their files so that we may learn why civilized society failed in its basic commitment to ensure the safety, lives, liberty and property of our people," said the Nov. 22 letter addressed to the head of the Israeli delegation to a coming Washington conference on Holocaust assets.

The publication of the letter, which did not give details of noncooperation, drew fire from a number of the institutions named. It also attracted critics who questioned whether Israel, itself the victim of boycotts, should be engaging in issuing blacklists.

"Blacklists are something that we as a people should shy away from," said Abe Foxman, director of the Anti-Defamation League, who added that the singling out of archives was "irresponsible and counterproductive."

Officials at some of the archives listed expressed dismay.

"We had an impression that our cooperation with institutions representing Jewish communities was going on with the satisfaction of both sides," said Daria Nalecz, head of the Polish State Archives, which was on the list.

The controversy arose before a four-day conference on Holocaust-era assets, which starts Monday in Washington.

The state institutions named in the letter included the Vatican archives, the French National Archives, the files of the British Custodian of Enemy Property, the MIS intelligence agency and the central state archives and Prague Jewish Museum in the Czech Republic.

BUG: 400 Days Left to Fix the Computers

Continued from Page 1

expect failure," said Roger Ferguson, a member of the Fed's board of governors and chairman of the presidential Year 2000 Council.

The current state of preparedness underscores the need for contingency arrangements. Gartner Group, a U.S. consultancy that conducts the broadest assessment of year 2000 preparations, warned last month that 23 percent of the companies it surveys in 87 countries had not started any work on the problem, a worrying sign, as it takes the average medium-sized company a full 30 months to make all its critical operations year 2000 compliant.

Gartner predicted that one-third to one-half of companies and government agencies worldwide would experience a disruption to operations severe enough to halt production or product delivery, cause a significant loss of revenue or legal liability, or pose a health hazard. In the United States, where remedial efforts are believed to be among the most advanced, disruptions were expected to hit as many as 15 percent of companies and agencies.

"The problem continues to be underestimated, and full-scale actions to address it are only recently beginning in many countries," the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development warned in a similar report. Half of OECD member countries have begun drawing up contingency plans to deal with year 2000 problems, it said.

Although no one can be sure where problems will arise or how severe they will be, a consensus is developing that problems will stop short of catastrophe. Gartner predicted that 90 percent of disruptions will be resolved within three days, and many companies are making contingencies for relatively short disruptions.

Airbus Industrie, which flies aircraft parts from member companies in Britain, Germany and Spain to the consortium's final assembly "plant" in Toulouse, France, is planning to stockpile one or two weeks' worth of parts in Toulouse before Dec. 31, 1999, to safeguard production in case Europe's skies are closed by a failure of air-traffic control systems, according to Helga Floedorff, the company's year 2000 project manager.

Unilever, the British-Dutch consumer products group, is sitting down with key suppliers to assess their compliance before deciding, sometime early next year, whether to stockpile raw materials or finished goods. But the company already is lining up backup communications facilities with satellite companies such as Inmarsat and Iridium, said Nick White, head of technology and communications.

The U.S. Coast Guard is considering stockpiling such vital spare parts as rotors for its fleet, said George Naccara, the service's chief information officer. "We have found suppliers who have said, 'We will go out of business on Dec. 31.'"

The Coast Guard also has ordered 10,000 inspection forms to be printed in case its computerized ship-inspection system crashes, and it is considering deploying its ships in all major U.S. ports so their satellite communications can be used as a backup in case telephone service breaks down.

While anticipating technical problems is difficult, trying to predict the behavior of consumers is even more fraught with risk. Two Hollywood studios are believed to be preparing year 2000 disaster films for release next summer. The American Association of Retired People has urged members to have \$1,000 in cash for every person in their household. Even Gartner, which warns

against a "bomb-shelter mentality," is advising people to fill their gasoline tanks, set aside two weeks' salary in cash and stock batteries, medicines and a week's worth of food.

"I'm often asked, 'Will there be a dial tone?'" said Mr. Powell of the communications commission. His answer: "Yes, unless you and everyone else picks up the phone to check."

Mr. Powell is encouraging U.S. telephone companies to enter mutual-assistance pacts to provide stopgap service in case of year 2000 failures. Many business executives maintain such government efforts to ensure the reliability of power, communications and transportation networks will be vital to preventing a panic.

"Public confidence in the infrastructure will affect consumer behavior," Mr. White of Unilever said.

Mr. Ferguson of the Federal Reserve downplayed the prospect of panic. While the risk of market disruption is real, he said, banks and financial institutions have led the way in preparing for a fix for the millennium bug.

"I don't think the American people will believe the year 2000 disaster story any more than they believed Alfred Hitchcock," he said.

BRIEFLY

Israel to Review Lebanon Security

LONDON — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel promised a review of security arrangements on the country's border with Lebanon on Thursday after the killing of five Israeli soldiers in south Lebanon in the past 10 days.

Mr. Netanyahu, following talks with Robin Cook, the British foreign secretary, repeated that he would be willing to contemplate the eventual withdrawal of Israeli troops from south Lebanon if a way could be found to meet Israel's security needs and protect its militia allies there.

Israel, which has controlled parts of south Lebanon since 1978, set up a self-declared "security zone" in 1985 to protect its northern border from guerrilla attacks. (Reuters)

French Urge Africa To Keep the Peace

PARIS — France will try to persuade African leaders this week that they should take over peacekeeping in the region and end the era when white soldiers kept order on the continent.

Paul Quilès, a former French defense minister, told a conference ahead of an African-French summit meeting in Paris on Friday and Saturday that their task "is to help African countries to develop their own peacekeeping capacities."

Mr. Quilès said France wanted to distance itself from the past, but would not withdraw the 7,000 soldiers it maintains in independent African states. (Reuters)

UN Police Extend Mission to Haiti

UNITED NATIONS, New York — Despite objections from Haitian lawmakers, the Security Council has decided to keep a UN civilian police force in Haiti for another year to keep training the nation's young force.

Haitian lawmakers say the international troops should be replaced by Haitian instructors. But President Rene Preval had asked for an extension of the police mandate. (AP)

Cuba Detains 6 After Drugs Find

HAVANA — Cuba is holding six Canadian tourists for suspected drug smuggling after cocaine was allegedly found in their luggage, foreign diplomats said.

Four men and two women were arrested on Nov. 8 at Havana Airport after arriving from Jamaica. A seventh member of the group, a pregnant woman, was released. (Reuters)

For the Record

Scores of skeletons in Algeria, believed to be those of the victims of Islamic guerrillas, have been unearthed from mass graves, according to newspaper reports. (Reuters)

GOBBLE: Even Thanksgiving Succumbs to the Takeout Trend

Continued from Page 1

"The Norman Rockwell picture doesn't exist anymore, or Martha Stewart," she said. "But you can re-create it if you order it."

New Yorkers may have started the trend, but others share their love of convenience and their lack of time to peel and dice, whip and bake.

In Washington, more than two dozen groceries, caterers, restaurants and delis offered prepared Thanksgiving feasts for pickup or delivery this year.

In San Diego, at the Arazzo Market Cafe, the feast included corn bisque with red bell peppers and rosemary, a free-range turkey basted with a choice of hutters or glazes and other side dishes. A complete dinner for 12 cost \$175.

Nor did one have to live in a big city to take it easy on Turkey Day. From the Internet, one could buy gourmet pies, smoked turkeys, hams and virtually any other specialty food. Plainville Farms, in

Plainville, New York, offered whole turkeys, turkey breasts and side dishes for shipping anywhere in the country.

The main factor seems to be time. In the mid-1960s, Americans spent an average of 2½ hours a day making dinner, according to a survey by the grocery manufacturers. Today, the average is 15 minutes. A parallel factor, experts said, is that in 1965, 39 percent of women were in the labor force. Today, that figure is 79 percent.

"Too busy," was the only thing one woman at Eli's had time to mutter as she explained why she was buying a prepared appetizer, even though her sister was making the rest of the dinner.

Ben Dragoon, owner of Ben's Kosher Deli, said he sold about 1,200 Thanksgiving dinners at his seven stores.

"Years ago, prepared foods or catering were high-class terms that meant spending a lot of money," said Mr. Dragoon, whose business for the holidays has been growing at about 10 per-

cent a year. "But now, it's less expensive to order the meal than to go to the store and buy raw ingredients, because most people buy too much."

Mr. Dragoon offered turkey, soup, appetizers, side dishes and dessert for 10 people, delivered hot, for \$100 to \$175.

"It's so much better than what you make yourself," said Thea Putnam, loading her basket at Citarella, a gourmet food shop on the Upper West Side, with freshly made cranberry relish, gravy and wild rice stuffing. "I'm a pretty good cook, but this is better," she said. "I still cook the turkey and the sweet potatoes myself. I fake everything else."

The trend toward prepared food for Thanksgiving has not carried away everyone. "My husband would kill me," said Karolina Trevana about the idea of a turkey cooked by someone other than herself. "I'm odd about it. I like to do it myself," she said, though she did acknowledge that she had bought prepared soup.

U.S. Navy Admiral Is Suspected Of Steering Contracts to a Lover

By Bradley Graham
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — A U.S. admiral responsible for Navy purchases is under investigation on suspicion of steering contracts to a woman with whom he was allegedly having an affair, according to Pentagon officials.

Rear Admiral John Scudi, 54, who was the Washington-based director of shore installation management and privatization programs, was relieved of those duties in August pending completion of the inquiry. He is scheduled to appear in military court Dec. 14 for a preliminary hearing on charges that he failed to abide by the Pentagon's ethics regulations in awarding the contracts, made false statements and obstructed investigators.

A married one-star officer, Admiral Scudi also faces two counts of adultery, one with the female contractor and the other with a Navy civilian employee, according to officials familiar with the investigation. A Navy spokesman in

Norfolk, Virginia, said Admiral Scudi had declined all media requests for comment. The allegations against the admiral were first reported in the Washington Times.

Navy investigators, who had suspected Admiral Scudi of wrongdoing for months, got a break in the case last spring when the contractor agreed to cooperate and implicated the admiral, the officials said.

"She learned about the other affair with the civilian employee," one official said. "That's when she came forward and expressed a willingness to cooperate."

Admiral Scudi, who has served 32 years in the Navy, is accused of having improperly directed about \$150,000 of training contracts to the woman from 1993 to 1997. He also is said by officials to have funneled "nonpublic information" to the contractor for use in obtaining other government contracts, then urged her to cover up their relationship when investigators began inquiring about it last year.



Admiral Scudi, due in court soon.

Since being relieved of his Washington duties, Admiral Scudi has been temporarily assigned to the Navy Surface Forces Command in Norfolk. The investigation could result in a court-martial proceeding or, as has been more frequently the case with wrongdoing by senior officers, it could be handled by administrative punishment.

Former President of Zimbabwe, Convicted of Sodomy, On Run

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Former President Robert Mugabe was convicted of 11 counts of sodomy and homosexual assault Thursday, and prosecutors confirmed that he had fled the country.

Mr. Mugabe, 62, a Methodist minister, illegally went to neighboring Botswana ahead of the verdict, said Chief Prosecutor Augustine Chikumba. He said the government would seek Mr. Mugabe's extradition.

"The court finds the accused guilty on all 11 charges," Judge Godfrey Chidyausiku said when he passed judgment. He said Mr. Mugabe was guilty of two cases of sodomy and nine cases of indecent assault, attempted sodomy and of committing "unnatural" sexual acts.

Mr. Mugabe has been on bail since September 1997. His trial began in June after the Supreme Court rejected his appeal that adverse pretrial publicity had prejudiced his right to a fair hearing.

The guilty verdict on all counts came after the three-week June trial. Each of the 11 charges carries a usual penalty of

two years imprisonment, for a possible maximum of 22 years in prison. Sentencing is scheduled for Dec. 10.

The offenses attributed to Mr. Mugabe mostly involved bodyguards, a cook and a gardener on his presidential staff. They allegedly occurred when he was president after independence in 1980 until 1987.

Mr. Mugabe's case has deeply embarrassed President Robert Mugabe, who insists that homosexuality is foreign to African culture and was brought to the continent from the West. He has introduced an outspoken campaign against homosexuality, describing same-sex partners as "lower than pigs and dogs."

The prosecutor told the court that Mr. Mugabe had left Zimbabwe on Nov. 17 without his passport, which he had surrendered as part of his bail conditions, and was thought to be in Botswana. In Gaborone, a presidential spokesman said Mr. Mugabe had made no official contacts and had already left Botswana.

Mr. Mugabe, who is married with four children, has dismissed all suggestions that he is a homosexual. (AP, Reuters)

No Accord On Output From OPEC

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

VIENNA — OPEC ended a two-day meeting Thursday without even a minimum agreement to extend cuts in oil production, saying it would review the situation again in March.

The secretary-general, Rikman Lukman, said there is "no question" of the need to reduce output, suggesting OPEC ministers had disagreed on just how low levels should be.

"We have already got an agreement, you know," Mr. Lukman said. "In March we will decide what to do."

Some delegates had voiced hope that a 2.6 million barrel-a-day cut that the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries set in June to run for one year could be extended six months to the end of 1999.

Analysts said that was the very least OPEC needed to do to prop up the lowest prices in 12 years. The price of the benchmark North Sea Brent crude finished Thursday at \$11 a barrel, up 10 cents from Wednesday, when it traded at the lowest price since such contracts began trading in 1986.

The cartel's president, Obaid bin Saif Al-Nassir, who also is oil minister of the United Arab Emirates, acknowledged in an opening speech to delegates that a "strong bearish sentiment has set in" on the world market.

Saudi Arabia said it opposed any further reductions because some in OPEC were pumping more than permitted under the June accord, which included producers from outside the cartel.

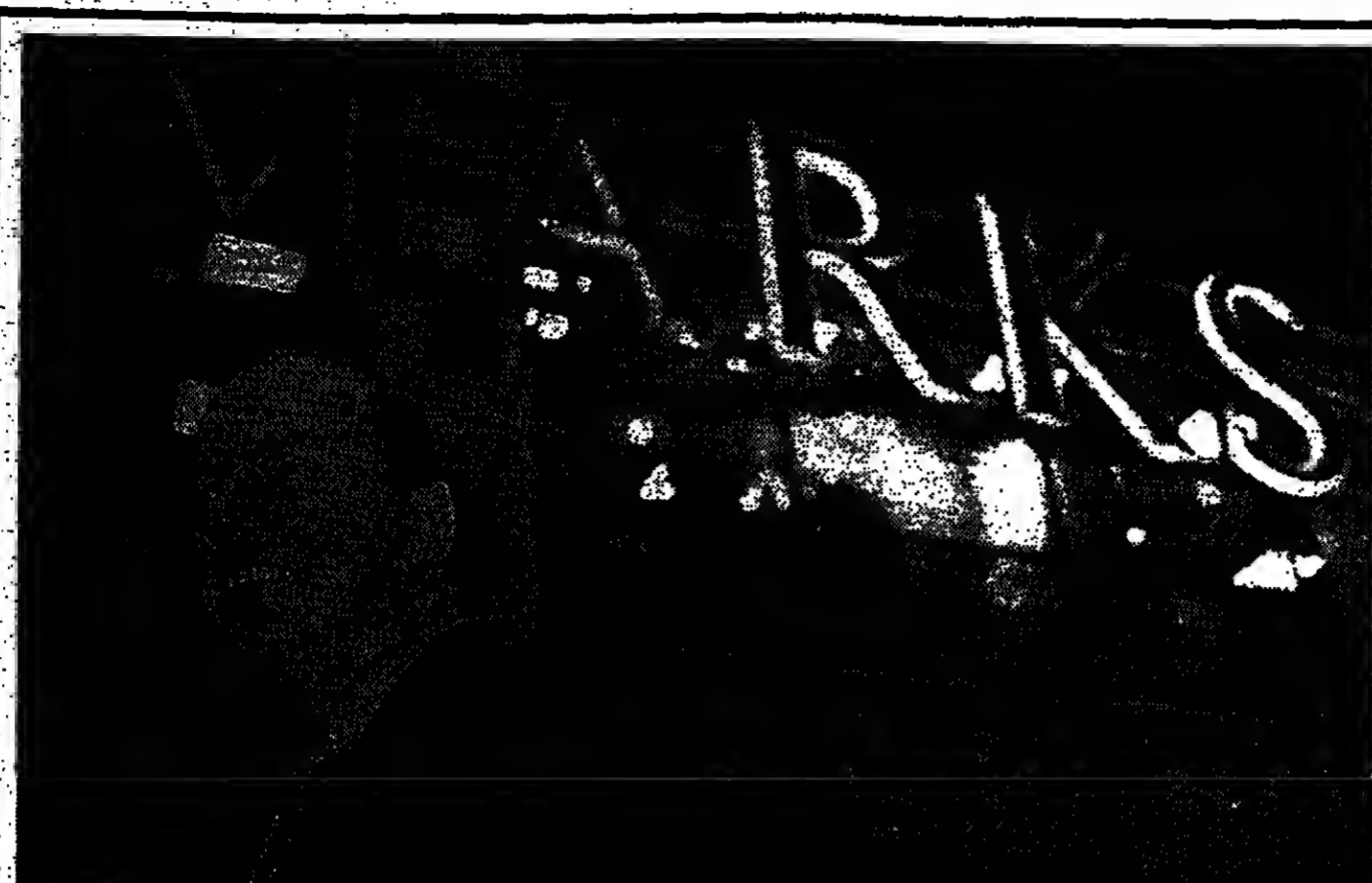
OPEC observers say the culprits are Iran and Venezuela.

"The key factor behind this was the deteriorating relationship between Venezuela and Saudi Arabia," said Mehdi Vaziri of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson. "Saudi Arabia's bottom line is that it wants to retain its leading position in the U.S. market."

OPEC members — Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela — control 37 percent of world oil supplies.

"This has knocked the bottom out of the market. I have this horrible feeling we could be getting into single digit prices for a while," Mr. Vaziri said.

(AP, Reuters)



Peter Salisbury, the new chief executive of Marks & Spencer, on Thursday outside a branch of the store in central London.

Sparks Fly in British Retailer's Boardroom

Marks & Spencer Shuffles Management, but Investors Are Unimpressed

By Alan Cowell
New York Times Service

LONDON — The clothes it sells are conservative, to put it mildly. Its line in pre-cooked food tries to cater to just about everyone from brown-bag lunchers to dinner-party hosts. Too pressed to attend to the cuisine themselves, Marks & Spencer PLC is — in other words — dependable.

Until now.

For the past month, the venerable British retailer has been roiled by the unthinkable — an in-seemingly boardroom tussle has been aired in public after profits cascaded and its stock plummeted.

Britain's financial journals, moreover, gleefully picked over what they called its parochialism and introverted management culture, slamming as slow-footed its efforts to take the distinctive green-and-white store-

front to a broader European market. Its autocratic chairman, Sir Richard Greenbury, even flew back from India to stem a flow of disclosures about a power struggle over his succession.

On Thursday, the company — known affectionately to many in Britain as "Marks and Sparks" — moved to slap a bandage on its bloodletting. After a marathon board meeting that lasted into Wednesday night, Sir Richard's chosen heir, Peter Salisbury, was named to succeed him, and an insurgent executive who had sought to usurp him was shoved from a \$1 million-a-year job into early retirement.

Sir Richard, 62, who had been both chairman and chief executive, was seen as triumphing by securing the post of nonexecutive chairman until 2000. Mr. Salisbury, 49, will be the new chief executive as of February.

But the markets appeared unimpressed. Shares in Marks & Spencer, which has un-

derperformed the Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100-share blue-chip index all year, fell 24.5 pence, or 5.5 percent, to close at 421 pence (\$6.99), reflecting investors' assessment that the new chief executive may not have the clout to improve the company's sliding fortunes.

The loser was the deputy chairman, Keith Oates, 56, who will retire in January and who was considered an outsider by many despite having spent 14 years with the company.

The crisis — exemplified in a 23 percent drop in first-half profit, the first fall in six years, that apparently precipitated Mr. Oates's bid for the top job — followed outsiders' criticism that the company had failed to introduce new ideas to remain competitive. Sir Richard, for instance, has been with the company for 45 years, since joining at the age of 17. Mr. Salisbury, too, is a Marks & Spencer "lifer" who joined

See M&S, Page 19

Aircraft Prices Under Suspicion

Boeing and Airbus Face Inquiries

Bloomberg News

TOULOUSE, France — U.S. and European Union regulators are investigating whether Boeing Co. and Airbus Industrie illegally fixed prices, EU antitrust officials said Thursday.

The European Commission said its investigation was being conducted separately from that of the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, although both organizations had similar concerns. The Federal Trade Commission, which enforces antitrust and consumer-protection laws in the United States, and the commission, the EU's executive agency, can fine companies that are found guilty of operating cartels.

"We are aware of the investigation," said an Airbus representative, who denied any collusion with Boeing. Boeing declined to comment on the report. Officials of the Federal Trade Commission could not be reached for comment. Thursday was a holiday in the United States.

The world's two biggest planemakers recently indicated that they wanted to focus on increasing profit, rather than market share, after a bruising price war. They have hardly benefited from a boom in aircraft orders, as their battle for market share has forced prices down as much as 20 percent in the past two years, analysts estimate, while profit margins on commercial jet sales, once in double digits, have slumped to about 3 percent.

The commission said its suspicions had been aroused by separate comments made by the companies at the Farnborough air show in England in September, when executives talked about raising prices.

Karel Van Miert, the EU competition commissioner, said the commission had sent the companies a series of questions. "The commission has received substantial responses and is now evaluating them," he said.

The profit squeeze has taken its toll on Boeing shares, which have fallen 15 percent this year as the Seattle-based planemaker posted its first annual loss in 50 years. Airbus's 1997 profit shrank 61 percent, to \$147 million.

"I find it strange that Boeing and Airbus would be under investigation, because they don't control the prices of the airplanes they make," said Doug McVitie, managing director of Arran Aerospace, an aviation consultancy based in Scotland. "Those prices are dictated by the customers. The cost of producing and marketing an airplane bears little or no relation to the price airlines pay for it."

Boeing raised list prices on its aircraft 5 percent on July 21; Airbus followed in September with a 3 percent increase.

Planemakers rarely sell their planes at the list price, analysts said, which means the measures are largely symbolic. Airlines, under pressure to cut prices, have been pressing for lower prices.

"We raise our list prices every year, so what's special about our latest increase?" the Airbus representative asked. "We shall continue to fight with our competition, bearing in mind our return on investment. There is no collusion, because that would be illegal."

Airbus, which is aiming for a 50 percent share of the world market for commercial aircraft, has wrested market share from Boeing since the start of the year, snatching a clutch of orders from such longtime Boeing customers as British Airways PLC and Iberia airlines of Spain. Still, some analysts questioned whether Airbus would show any profit on the sales.

Thinking Ahead / Commentary

In Dealing With Japan, Be Sensitive

By Reginald Dale
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Why was Japan's artillery much more accurate than its rifle-fire in World War II? Why do Japanese athletes, unlike those of most other countries, perform better in trials for their national Olympic team than in the Olympics themselves?

According to a prominent Japanese sociologist, the answer to both questions is the same: Japanese people do better when they are not being observed by foreigners. The artillery was far behind the front lines, out of sight of the enemy, and only Japanese spectators watch Olympic trials while the whole world watches the Olympic Games.

The sociologist first expounded this theory in the 1970s, since when Japan has gotten much more used to being watched by foreigners — especially where its economic performance is concerned. But many Japanese manifestly feel uncomfortable under a foreign microscope.

Since its economy began stagnating seven years ago, Japan has endured a deluge of criticism and advice, mostly from the United States. Recent weeks have brought more of the same, with senior U.S. officials savaging Japanese trade policy and President Bill Clinton delivering milder admonishments during his visit to Japan last week.

Some leading Japanese commentators now say the country's poor economic performance, and foreign disapproval of it, are bringing deep feelings of insecurity to the surface.

"The country's reaction to foreign pressure is complex. Sometimes Japanese officials welcome it as a way of persuading public opinion to accept unpopular decisions; sometimes they resent it. Lately, resentment has been growing."

Clearly these cultural factors need to be taken into account by foreigners seeking to influence Japanese decisions. Grating against a culture is usually counterproductive (witness U.S. attempts to browbeat France), and there is no point in gratuitously alienating Japan.

Anyway, there are two sides to most issues. Mr. Clinton may have a point when he warns that the soaring Japanese trade surplus could provoke calls for "retaliatory protectionism" in the United States. But it is part of his job, not just Japan's, to keep American protectionism at bay.

The United States may be right that Japan has not done enough to help its neighbors since the Asian economic crisis erupted last year. But it was Washington that torpedoed Japan's original plans for a big new Asian fund to help countries in trouble.

Tokyo was wrong to block further trade liberalization at the summit meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum this month. But it is

right to point out that fast-growing America will inevitably suck in more imports than slow-growing Japan.

America is perfectly entitled to ask whether the Japanese system, so effective when Japan was catching up with the West, is capable of dealing with current problems. But many Americans tend to forget that Japan's values and priorities are legitimately different from their own.

In the end, however, the Japanese will have to get used to foreign attention. In today's interdependent world, the trend is for the international community to intervene ever more intrusively into what used to be regarded as a country's domestic economic and political affairs.

There is also nothing in Japan remotely resembling the huge American policy-formulation machine, a nexus of public and private interests of every hue, that is constantly throwing out new economic plans and ideas.

As the world's third-largest economy after the United States and the European Union, Japan must accept that its domestic policies are a legitimate subject for foreign analysis and recommendations, especially when they are not succeeding.

The bottom line is that if the Japanese find that those recommendations clash too sharply with their culture and their values, they should come up with more effective policies of their own.

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CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates									
	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY	AUD	NZD	HKD	TWD	THB
Australian	1.00	0.65	0.60	106.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40
British	1.00	0.65	1.00	160.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40
Canadian	1.00	0.65	0.60	106.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40
French	1.00	1.00	0.65	160.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40
German	1.00	1.00	0.65	160.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40
Italian	1.00	1.00	0.65	160.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40
Japanese	1.00	0.65	0.60	1.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40
New Zealand	1.00	0.65	0.60	106.00	1.00	1.00	7.75	13.75	3.40
Portuguese	1.00	0.65	0.60	106.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40
Spanish	1.00	0.65	0.60	106.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40
Swedish	1.00	0.65	0.60	106.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40
Swiss	1.00	0.65	0.60	106.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40
Taiwan	1.00	0.65	0.60	106.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	1.00	3.40
Thai	1.00	0.65	0.60	106.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	1.00
U.S.	1.00	0.65	0.60	106.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40

Libor-Libor Rates									
	1-month	3-month	6-month	9-month	12-month	18-month	24-month	36-month	48-month
1-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
3-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
6-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
9-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
12-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
18-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
24-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
36-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
48-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50

Key Money Rates									
	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY	AUD	NZD	HKD	TWD	THB
American	1.00	0.65	0.60	106.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40
British	1.00	0.65	1.00	160.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40
Canadian	1.00	0.65	0.60	106.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40
French	1.00	1.00	0.65	160.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40
German	1.00	1.00	0.65	160.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40
Italian	1.00	1.00	0.65	160.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40
Japanese	1.00	0.65	0.60	1.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40
New Zealand	1.00	0.65	0.60	106.00	1.00	1.00	7.75	13.75	3.40
Portuguese	1.00	0.65	0.60	106.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40
Spanish	1.00	0.65	0.60	106.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40
Swedish	1.00	0.65	0.60	106.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40
Swiss	1.00	0.65	0.60	106.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40
Taiwan	1.00	0.65	0.60	106.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	1.00	3.40
Thai	1.00	0.65	0.60	106.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	1.00
U.S.	1.00	0.65	0.60	106.00	1.00	0.65	7.75	13.75	3.40

Forward Rates									
	1-month	3-month	6-month	9-month	12-month	18-month	24-month	36-month	48-month
1-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
3-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
6-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
9-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
12-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
18-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
24-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
36-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
48-month	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50



Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand

U.S. \$300,000,000

7% Guaranteed Bonds due 2008

guaranteed as to payment of principal only on the Maturity Date and, on a partial basis, interest by the

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

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ABN AMRO

Barclays Capital

Lehman Brothers

Caboto Holding SIM

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Goldman Sachs International

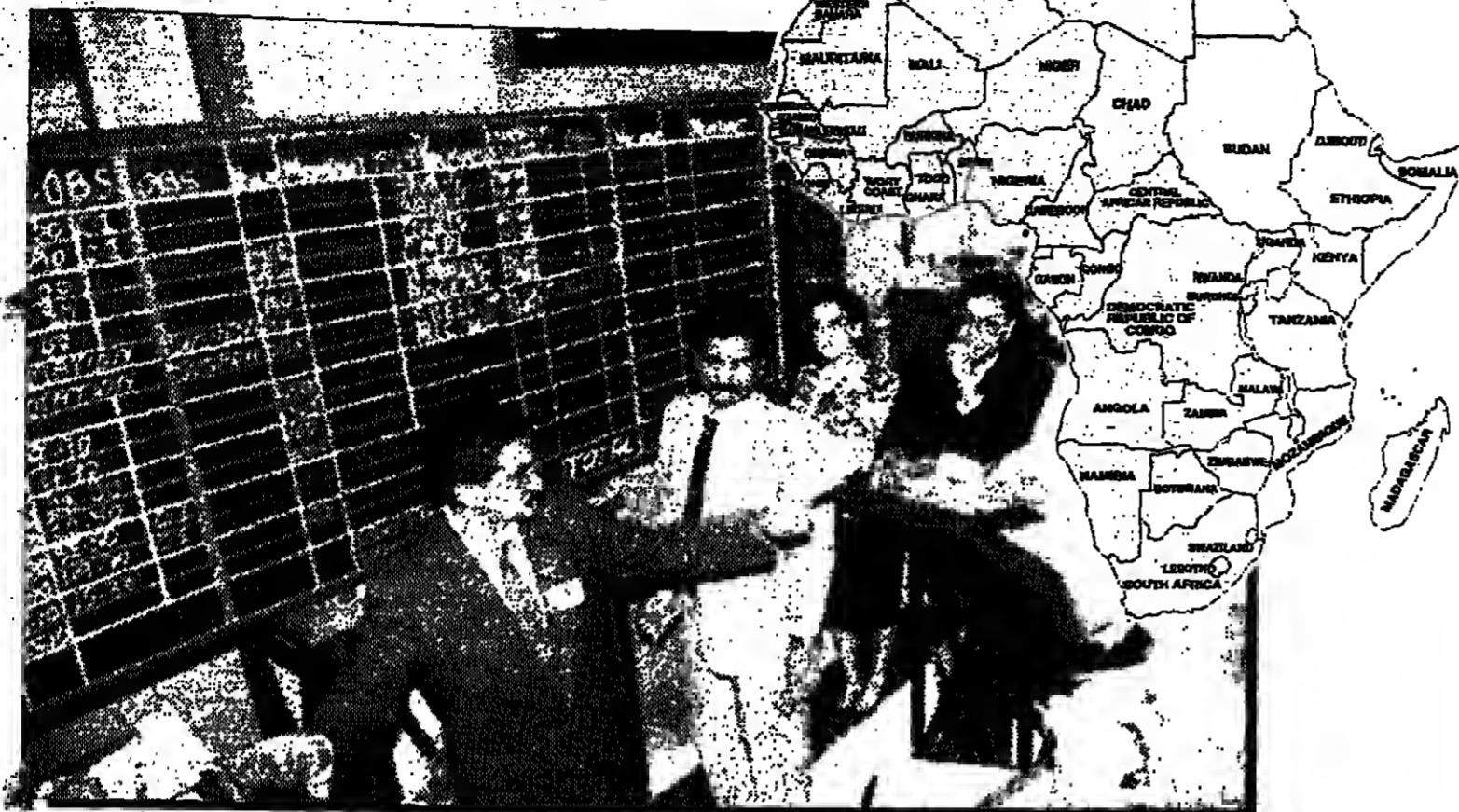
Landesbank Sachsen Girozentrale



October, 1998

BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES IN AFRICA

Tiny Mauritius has a stock market capitalization of \$1.8 billion, one the largest in Africa.



STOCK MARKETS ATTRACT INCREASED FOREIGN CAPITAL

New funds are being launched that invest in a portfolio of African markets.

The liberalization of capital markets and internalization of domestic markets has increased portfolio investment in sub-Saharan Africa. Global investment managers have been increasingly attracted to the investment opportunities offered by African stock exchanges. Recently, the Africa Growth and Investment Fund — based in South Africa and sponsored by Citibank, Société Générale and Rothschild — was launched to invest Africa-wide. Around the same time, the West African Growth Fund, based in Abidjan for investments in the privatized and private companies of Franc Zone countries, was founded.

There are 12 stock markets in sub-Saharan Africa — in South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Côte d'Ivoire. The tiny island of Mauritius, 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) off the East African coast, also has one.

Wide variation African stock exchanges trade company stocks, corporate bonds and other debt instruments and government securities. Market capitalization varies widely, from South Africa's giant Johannesburg stock exchange, with a market capitalization of \$241 billion at the beginning of 1998, to Malawi's, with a few hundred million dollars.

Recently, the Africa Growth and Investment Fund, based in South Africa and sponsored by Citibank, Société Générale and Rothschild, was launched to invest Africa-wide.

Offshore success Mauritius, often referred to as an "African success story," is a flourishing offshore financial center founded on a stable and relatively industrialized economy, which has given it real gross domestic product growth of 5 percent to 6 percent.

The Stock Exchange of Mauritius, one of the largest in Africa, has a market capitalization of \$1.8 billion. The main all-share index had 46 companies listed in March 1998, with two companies also listed on the London Stock Exchange. SEM has 11 active stock-broking companies.

Over a five-year period, commercial banking has had average annual growth of 9 percent. Foreign banks have long been attracted to the island, and many of these, including Barclays, have built large networks of branches.

Two of the largest banks — the Mauritius Commercial Bank, holding 45 percent of the domestic market, and the State Bank of Mauritius, with 30 percent of market share — dominate the Mauritian Stock Exchange. SEM permits the listing of offshore investment funds; there were more than 130 at the end of 1997.

TOWARD MORE TRANSPARENCY AND SOPHISTICATION

Privately owned institutions are leading the way to the modernization and internationalization of African banks.

The face of banking in sub-Saharan Africa is changing. Financial reforms have opened up banking and given rise to many opportunities for both local entrepreneurs and foreign investors.

One of South Africa's top banks, Standard — in a list including Stanbic, Amalgamated Banks of South Africa Group, Nedcor, First National Bank Holdings, Investec Group and NBS Bond Bank — was the first to take advantage of the opportunities offered by countries to the north. In May 1998, Standard bought 72 percent of Malawi's Indebank Financial Services. It has 14 other ventures in, for instance, Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Swaziland and Nigeria. Investments in one country can lead to opportunities in another. Nedcor's investment in the State Bank of Mauritius should open the door to Madagascar and India.

While most of the countries attracting foreign investors have introduced economic and political reforms, regulatory and supervisory measures have often failed to keep pace. A series of bank failures is forcing individual countries to restructure their banking sectors to create an environment better able to foster economic growth and encourage and keep foreign business interest. In this, governments play a crucial role.

Basic banking Improving banking conditions can bring excellent returns. One example is

Banque Belgoise's investments in African countries such as Congo and Togo. According to a World Bank study, "Bank Restructuring in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons Learned," the pace of change in banking sectors has much to do with government commitment to restructuring. The results of bank restructuring were compared in seven countries: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Mozambique. Strong government support, indicated by "the transmission of technical know-how to policy makers" was evident in the first three; while the last four were characterized by a "lack of government commitment" to reform. As with Kenya, the Nigerian and Zimbabwean banking sectors did not — until crises began to loom — have concentrated government commitment to reform.

Nonetheless, countries in every corner of Africa are rising to the challenge and carving out more efficient and streamlined banking sectors, often against a backdrop of macroeconomic instability, declining aid and low levels of foreign direct investment (FDI). South Africa, Ghana, Uganda, Angola and Nigeria (the last two for oil production) are the main recipients of FDI. But, as the IMF says, attracting FDI requires "a stable macroeconomic environment along with improved governance" and a legal and regulatory environment that is stable and transparent.

Many central banks — as with other types of bank, in-

cluding the largest commercial ones — still remain under government control. Some have been liquidated or sold to private concerns. Weak management, attributable to a lack of skills and also corruption, compromises banks' standing. Many are forced to prop up inefficient state enterprises and mop up government fiscal deficits, besides providing credit to politically connected private-sector concerns.

There is much to be done, and central banks have an important part to play, but these institutions are unlikely to be effective in supervisory and regulatory roles until they become autonomous from government. As Okochukwu Unegbu, second vice president of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria, recently told a London business magazine: "If the Central Bank is not autonomous, there will be a passing of the buck between it and the Ministry of Finance."

A fine line Liberalization has provided opportunities for all manner of financial institutions, from unregistered dealers to merchant banks, discount houses, new commercial banks and building societies in Africa, from Zimbabwe and Nigeria to Kenya, to name only a few. These developments have led to criticism in local national newspapers that the countries are "overbanked" and are failing to meet their obligations. There is a downside to liberalization — excesses, which are all the more problematic when supervisory measures are thin on the ground.

In Kenya, Prudential became the fourth bank to fail to meet clearing responsibilities. Others, such as Trust Bank (with branches in Uganda and Tanzania) and Reliance Bank, suffered the same fate earlier and are under statutory management — a situation adding to what is already a crisis of confidence in small banks.

Not even the largest have been free of the shadow of dubious management practices. A few weeks before the third tranche of shares in majority-state-owned Kenya Commercial Bank was floated in April, local newspapers reported that the general manager and some of the directors had acquired unserviced loans worth \$2.58 million. Finance Minister Simeon Nychae took immediate action against those accused.

Likewise, the collapse of Zimbabwean Roger Boka's United Merchant Bank (UMB) because of insolvency and undercapitalization was a severe jolt to investor confidence. Much of the blame was subsequently laid at the door of the Reserve Bank (the central bank) for poor supervision. UMB allegedly illegally issued around \$40 million worth of

bills for the Cold Storage Commission. Some estimates put UMB's losses at between \$55 million and \$80 million.

The fallout has been considerable, not only because of the flight of deposits to foreign-owned banks, including Standard Chartered, Stanbic and Barclays, but also because the issue dented Zimbabwe's "indigenization" program.

Nigerian reforms There are many similarities with Nigeria, which is also rationalizing its banking sector. Some of the largest institutions — Union Bank, United Bank for Africa and First Bank — have begun restructuring with a view to listing on international stock exchanges. UBA expects to be the first, and hopes for an early listing on the London and New York stock exchanges. UBA is owned by Banque Nationale de Paris, several foreign companies and a local interest.

A complex two-tier system took root in Nigeria, where banking expanded rapidly during the 1990s (there were 41 banks in 1985 and 115 in 1996), fueled by prospects of quick profits in an environment lacking in supervision and transparency. In order to attract deposits, indigenous banks paid higher interest rates while relying on injections of funds from government and parastatals. In return, they provided high-risk loans and subsidies.

The Central Bank of Nigeria in 1991 attempted to regulate lending, make provision for bad loans and strengthen the capital base. A ban on new banking licenses in the same year, however, gave rise to a growth of non-banking financial institutions, such as currency exchanges, community banks and mortgage banks that could be established with very little capital. In 1991, the minimum paid-up capital requirement was raised to \$40 million.

Problems grew because of excessive risk taking, poor asset quality, fraud, an inhibitory policy environment, a lack of trained staff when banking mushroomed in the 1980s and the many political appointments. By the end of 1997, 26 of Nigeria's banks had been liquidated because they failed to raise equity bases up to the new 500 million naira (\$5.8 million) level. CBN then gave other "distressed" banks until Dec. 31, 1998 to pay up. According to a Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation report, deposits of 49 billion naira — 29 percent of all deposits — were with banks classified as "distressed," and 49 percent of loans were nonperforming.

A place of contradictions and enormous vitality, Nigeria is poised to implement some very sophisticated banking technology that will theoretically move the coun-

try toward a cashless society in a country where cash is problematic.

A consortium of 19 banks (representing 70 percent of banking sector assets), including Citibank Nigeria and Credit Lyonnais Nigeria, have introduced smart cards, to be managed by a new joint-stock company, Smart Card Nigeria Plc, which is owned by IBM and Card Services International, a Dublin company.

The first batch of cards will be in circulation in December 1998 and will cost \$2.1 million.

African Development Bank Group

When I grow up I will be the Director or even Chairman of the Board!



Development of Private Enterprise

Just like this little boy, many Africans are full of ambition for themselves and their countries, and possess skills equal to those of the company president! The private sector, with limitless possibilities for a lasting and stable development of the continent, must be aided and encouraged.

Within the ADB, the Department in charge of the development of private sector in Africa (OPSD), has the responsibility of putting into action the policies and strategy of the Bank in this area. The Bank has already granted loans and equities of USD 125 million, in favor of projects with a total cost of about USD 700 million. Assisted projects covered a wide range of sectors including infrastructure projects, financial institutions, manufacturing, mining, agro-business and tourism.

The ADB offers direct assistance without government guarantees to private enterprises and financial institutions through terms loans, equity participations, quasi-equity investments, guarantees and underwriting. The Bank also extends lines of credit to private financial institutions for on lending to small and medium enterprises.

The African Development Bank has equally initiated

and upheld efforts towards the creation of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank). As part of its efforts to promote entrepreneurship and improve management of African enterprises, the Bank has also co-sponsored, with sister organizations, the creation of the Africa Project Development Facility (APDF) and the African Management Services Company (AMSCO), while redefining methods of more intense collaboration with non-governmental organizations.

The Bank will provide advisory services to African member countries on ways to improve the environment for private enterprise functioning and develop capital markets.

Through the African Development Fund (ADF), the ADB Group has launched new ways to assist African microenterprises under its "AMINA" (ADF Microfinance Initiative for Africa) Program. This initiative will strengthen the capacity of microfinance institutions such as NGOs, village banks and credit unions to provide an appropriate range of financial services including savings and microcredit to the backbone of Africa's future prosperity: the micro-entrepreneurs, especially women.

BUILDING A FUTURE FOR AFRICA

For further information, Private Sector Development Department (OPSD)
Tel. (225) 20 41 68 - Fax. (225) 20 49 64
Communications Unit (COMU) - 01 BP 1387 Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) - Tel. (225) 20 41 18
Fax. (225) 20 40 06 - Email: comu@afdb.org - Web Site: www.afdb.org

ADB, Africa's Bank

AFRICA'S MULTILATERAL LENDER



African Development Bank President Omar Kabbaj.

The African Development Bank Group, which includes the African Development Bank, the African Development Fund (the bank's soft loan arm) and the Abidjan-based Nigeria Trust Fund, makes loans and equity investment for the economic development and social progress of the 53 member countries on the continent. The bank's focus is on agriculture, public utilities, transport, industry, health and education. Poverty reduction, the environment, gender and corporate governance — the so called cross-cutting issues — are part of its "broad menu" for the continent's development.

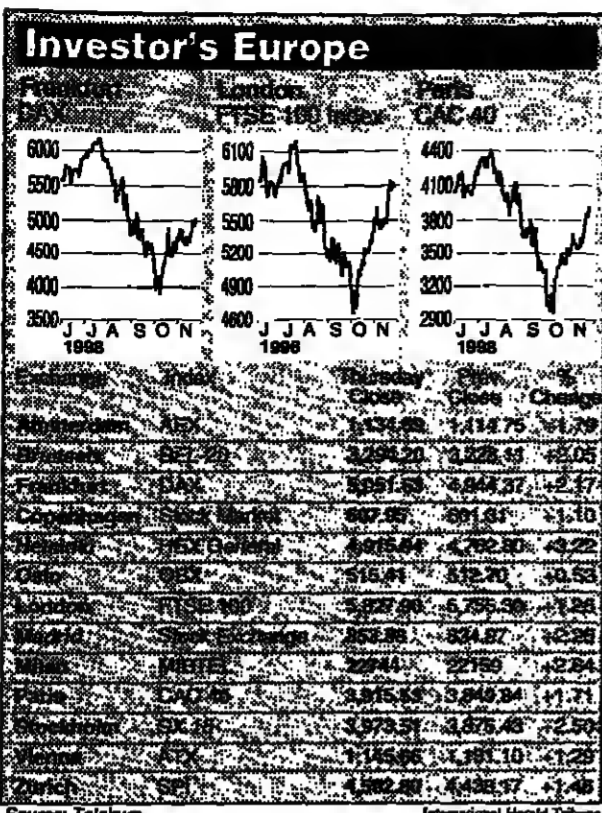
"It is important to keep the African character of the ADB," said Philippe de Fontaine Vive, France's representative in Abidjan, on the decision in June of this year to increase the bank's capital by 35 percent (\$7.65 billion) and change its voting percentages. "Its capital, its administrative rules, its leaders reflect the diversity of Africa."

The equity share of the nonregional members — the United States, Japan and the European countries — was raised from 35 percent to 40 percent, with an increased veto of 66 percent.

Non-African members provided credit for the 39 African countries that do not qualify for nonconcessional credit on grounds of poverty.

The bank's president, Moroccan Omar Kabbaj, who was a director of the World Bank and the IMF, has presided over far-reaching reforms of the AFD that are doing much to raise the credibility of the bank in the international arena and in the eyes of other multilaterals.

EUROPE



Very briefly:

- British Airways PLC, Europe's largest carrier, bought its franchise partner CityFlyer Express for £75 million (\$126.3 million) to expand its position at London's Gatwick airport, where it will have 42 percent of takeoff and landing slots. But Richard Branson, the entrepreneur behind Virgin Atlantic Airways, a BA rival, plans to lodge a complaint with Britain's competition watchdog.
- Laura Ashley Holdings PLC, a British clothing and home-furnishings retailer, plans to close factories in Oswestry, Wales, and Helmond, Netherlands, and may shut three others as it struggles to sell them as part of a reorganization. It said the cost of the moves would be covered by a £9 million provision announced previously.
- British manufacturing orders remain weak, output expectations are markedly negative, and a recession in the manufacturing industry looks increasingly likely, the Confederation of British Industry said in its latest survey.
- Fiat SpA's stock rose on speculation the Agnelli family could incorporate Fiat Auto as part of a strategy to streamline its interests. Fiat closed at 5,528 lire (\$3.29), up 350.
- John Mansfield Group PLC, a British timber company, plans to bid for Marley PLC in an offer that values the building-products company at £283 million.
- Allianz AG's premium income rose 18.7 percent, to 76 billion Deutsche marks (\$44.7 billion), in the first nine months of the year, helped mostly by the acquisition of Assurances Generales de France SA this year.
- J. Sainsbury PLC of Britain agreed to buy closely held Star Markets Holdings Inc. from Investcorp International for \$490 million in cash and assumed debt, expanding its presence in the northeastern United States.

Bloomberg, Reuters

EU Closes 3 Telecom Inquiries

BRUSSELS — The European Commission said Thursday it had closed three of its investigations into connection charges for calls between fixed and mobile phone networks after the telecommunications companies changed their practices.

The inquiries involved Telecom Italia, Telefonica of Spain and Telecom Eireann of Ireland. The commission also said it had suspended its investigation into charges by Deutsche Telekom and the Dutch operator KPN Telecom for connecting mobile-to-fixed calls and another involving KPN's retention of revenue for calls from fixed to mobile phones because national authorities had taken up the cases.

However, the commission said it was continuing to investigate Post & Telekom Austria, Telekom Italia, Deutsche Telekom, Belgacom and Telefonica over such calls.

The commission said Telecom Italia had stopped charging more to connect calls from mobile operators than from fixed operators, reducing charges for mobile companies by about 40 percent. It said it had closed the case against Telefonica after the Spanish telecommunications regulator insisted that the company's proposed interconnection fees apply to mobile as well as fixed operators, and Telecom Eireann announced prices that would reduce the revenue it kept from fixed-to-mobile calls, the commission added.

The commission began the inquiries in July after uncovering 14 cases of what it called "potentially excessive or discriminatory" prices for wireless communications in the 15-country European Union market that was opened to competition at the start of the year. It was part of an effort to enforce deregulation of the EU telecommunications industry.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

Russia Tells Creditors It Can't Pay Soviet Debt

Moscow's Warning on \$28 Billion Obligation Signals Western Bankers to Expect a Default

By Alan Cowell
New York Times Service

LONDON — Crippled by economic crisis and desperate for international aid, Russia has told Western bankers that it will not meet payment terms on \$28 billion in Soviet-era debt to commercial creditors, effectively paving the way for a default on interest payments next month, bankers said Thursday.

The Russian position emerged from three days of negotiations this week between Russian officials and the so-called London Club, a loose assembly of more than 600 Western commercial creditors.

The upshot of the discussion, according to Russian officials and Western bankers, was that Russia would not meet previously agreed terms to pay half of a \$724 million interest repayment due Wednesday in cash and has offered instead to pay in bonds worth only some 13 percent of their face value.

In a further sign of trouble, bankers, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said separate negotiations on \$10 billion in ruble-denominated domestic debt owed to foreigners had divided Western creditors over whether to accept new Russian terms.

"The issue is whether they should give any form of acknowledgment or not," when a committee of 18 banks meets here Friday to discuss the Russian offer, said a banker who asked not to be identified by name. "No one feels there's been much achievement."

Russia announced a moratorium on debt Aug. 17 and allowed the value of the ruble to slide. Since then, it has failed to reach agreement with the International Monetary Fund on economic policies that would free \$4.3 billion of a \$22.6 billion bailout package.

Mikhail Kasaynov, the deputy finance minister, has signaled deepening troubles by saying Russia will be able to pay back less than \$10 billion of the \$17 billion in foreign debt that falls due in 1999.

The negotiations with the London Club centered on terms agreed in 1997 setting out a schedule of repayments of debts from the former Soviet Union whose principal is denominated in so-called principal bonds. Under the 1997 agreement, half of the interest due next Wed-

nesday was to be paid in cash and half in bonds called interest arrears notes. Instead, Russia now wants to pay the whole \$724 million by issuing new interest arrears notes.

To fulfill earlier agreements, 95 percent of creditors must agree to accept payment in new paper, but most of the holders of interest arrears notes are believed to be dispersed.

Russian officials say a separate interest payment of \$216 million will be made in cash, but the London Club did not confirm this. Mr. Kasaynov said Wednesday that London Club members had agreed in principle to accept the whole interest payment in the notes, but bankers said creditors had not agreed.

"To most lay people, it's definitely a default," said a banker who spoke on condition of anonymity. "They are not going to pay. We are not even at the due date, and they have already announced that they are not going to pay, and they are trying to get the creditors to accept that."

In separate discussions, Russian officials have offered a complicated mix of repayments of some \$10 billion in domestic ruble debt that was part of the \$40 billion Treasury debt frozen in August.

Effectively, though, the Russian offer would permit foreign creditors to repatriate only \$550 million staggered over a one-year period of monthly central bank auctions.

The rest would be swapped for a variety of ruble securities useful only for transactions inside Russia.

A negotiating committee led by Deutsche Bank AG and Credit Suisse First Boston is to present the Russian proposal to a larger banking group Friday, but some of those close to the discussions said there was little unity among creditors about the value of the deal.

"It's not that anybody thinks that the Russians could have been moved more," in the negotiations, said one banker close to the discussions. "It's a question of whether it's worth reacting to it."

Koostantin Korshchenko, a Russian central bank official, said Wednesday that the offer was the best available.

"Investors could not ask for more than we offered, because there was no way we could improve conditions of the swap," he told Bridge News.

(Bloomberg, AFP)

France Posts Sluggish 3d-Quarter Growth

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — The French economy grew at its slowest pace in a year and a half in the third quarter, statistics showed Thursday, and business confidence fell in November to an 18-month low as companies pared inventories in anticipation of slowing exports.

French gross domestic product rose 0.5 percent in the quarter after expanding 0.8 percent in the second quarter. That growth rate was the lowest since the first quarter of 1997. Weaker inventories cut French growth by half a percentage point, the government agency Insee said, as business confidence fell to its lowest level since May 1997.

The government said it stood by its forecast of growth of 2.7 percent next year despite data that show the economy slowing.

Finance Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn called the downturn an "air bubble."

He said there was "no reason to worry" and that 1998 was unfolding as expected. "For the moment, we just have to wait for a return of confidence," he said.

France is the second-largest econ-

omy among the 11 European countries that are adopting a single currency Jan. 1, and the slowdown in growth was viewed as giving the new European Central Bank room to cut interest rates.

Stephane Deo, a Paris-based economist at Goldman, Sachs & Co., said the probability of a cut in interest rates in Europe had "risen significantly."

A cut might be announced as soon as Dec. 22, he said, when the European Central Bank is to fix the rate at which it will conduct its first money-market operation after tak-

ing control of interest rates for the countries that will use the European currency, the euro.

Many analysts do not expect France and Germany to cut their benchmark rates from the current 3.30 percent before ceding rate-cutting authority to the new central bank, because other countries in the currency union are still trying to bring their rates down to that level.

The Bank of France left its intervention rate unchanged Thursday at 3.30 percent. Its monetary-policy council is to meet Dec. 3.

(Bloomberg, AFP)

Crises Hold Back ING Profit

Bridge News

LONDON — ING Groep NV said Thursday its net profit rose 42 percent in the first nine months of the year, but it said earnings growth had been held back by the financial crises in Asia and Russia.

ING earned 4.86 billion guilders (\$2.53 billion) in the period, up from 3.42 billion guilders a year earlier. But the group's banking arm, ING

Barings, had a substantial loss in the third quarter as trading came under pressure from "hectic developments" in financial markets, ING said. The unit's pre-tax operating loss for the third quarter alone was 330 million guilders.

Net profit from banking in the nine-month period fell 4 percent, to 1.51 billion guilders, and operating profit was down 42 percent.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Thursday, Nov. 26

Dollars in local currencies.

Tel Aviv

High Low Close Prev.

Tel Aviv

High Low Close Prev.

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Source: Bloomberg 157

were ripe for Swiss bonds. Annual consumer-price inflation fell to zero in October, the lowest in Western Europe. With economic growth slowing—UBS, Europe's largest bank, predicts growth of 1.4 percent next year, slowing from 2.2 percent this year—inflation is not expected to be a problem for as long as three years, the vice president of the Swiss central bank, Bruno Gehrig, said this year.

Slow inflation is good news for bond investors because it means the securities will hold more of their value over time.

"Sure, Swiss bonds have done well, but then again anything could happen in 50 years," said Viktor Seim, a trader at ABN-AMRO bank in Zurich.

Some investors said the government's attempt to sell long-dated bonds wasn't an effort to help pension-fund managers achieve a 4 percent return on their investments, as is prescribed by Swiss law. The 50-year bond, which was priced to yield an annualized 4.095 percent, is currently the only Swiss government bond that yields more than 4 percent.

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Sluggish Spending Is Seen Keeping Hong Kong Down

Bloomberg News
HONG KONG — The government is expected to report Friday that Hong Kong's economy shrank 7 percent from a year earlier in the July-September quarter, its biggest contraction ever, because of plunging consumer spending and capital flight triggered by the Asian currency crisis.

The economy contracted 2.7 percent in the January-March quarter and 5.2 percent in April through June. The third-quarter decline expected by analysts would mark the first time since at least the early 1960s that the economy has shrunk in three consecutive quarters.

But some economists say the situation has finally bottomed out.

As evidence they point to the 62 percent jump in the benchmark Hang Seng stock index since Aug. 13 and signs that property prices have stabilized.

"The market is sending me signals which are turning me from a bear to a bull," said Mac Overton, a fund manager at MBF Capital Asia Ltd. "It's a painful transformation."

Property values plunged 55 percent in the 13 months through October as the former British colony plunged into recession.

Now, though, evidence of an upturn in the property market could be laying the foundation for a wider economic recovery.

As interest rates fall — Hong Kong banks cut their prime lending

rate to 9.5 percent from 9.75 percent last week — investors are betting that it is a good time to buy. Because seven out of 10 Hong Kong companies invest in real estate, rising property prices increase company profits across the board.

The 12 biggest property companies make up 22 percent of the Hang Seng stock index and have more than doubled in value as a group this year.

Still, hitting bottom does not mean an immediate return to growth, said Martin Cubbon, finance director at Swire Pacific Ltd., which owns controlling stakes in Cathay Pacific Airways and Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering Co.

"There is still a lot of pain to get through," Mr. Cubbon said, pointing to unemployment, which stands at a record 5.3 percent. Retail sales fell a record 21 percent in September from a year earlier, their 11th consecutive monthly decline, signaling that deflation remains a threat.

Consumer prices rose only 0.1 percent in October from a year earlier, prices of many goods actually fell at the retail level, and economists say the deflation could continue through next year if demand remained weak.

Hong Kong exports fell 17.5 percent in October from a year earlier as demand slackened in the United States and most of Europe, as well as in Japan, China and other Asian countries.

Exports totaled 119 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$15.37 billion). Imports fell 22.4 percent, to 118.7 billion dollars. The resulting narrower trade deficit reflected weaker domestic demand, analysts and economists said.

"The fourth quarter is going to be quite bad because the U.S. market has slowed down for Chinese exports," said Andy Xie, an economist at Morgan Stanley Asia Ltd. "Together with reduced Asian demand, this means shrinking exports for China."

Over all, corporate Hong Kong can expect a grim year in 1999, Mr. Cubbon said, because companies are not going to be able to raise prices.

Investor's Asia

Hong Kong Hang Seng	Singapore Straits Times	Tokyo Nikkei 225		
11000	1500	17000		
10000	1400	16000		
9000	1300	15000		
8000	1200	14000		
7000	1100	13000		
6000	1000	12000		
5000	900	11000		
4000	800	10000		
3000	700	9000		
2000	600	8000		
1000	500	7000		
0	400	6000		
1998	1998	1998		
J J A S O N	J J A S O N	J J A S O N		
Exchange	Index	Thursday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	10,778.92	10,720.89	+0.54
Singapore	Straits Times	1,390.70	1,390.51	+0.01
Sydney	All Ordinaries	2,772.00	2,749.40	+0.82
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	15,202.77	15,073.47	+0.89
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	498.69	502.15	-0.69
Bangkok	SET	382.20	381.01	+2.25
Beirut	Composite Index	446.59	454.01	-3.75
Taipei	Stock Market Index	7,377.85	7,213.50	+2.28
Manila	PSE	1,026.63	1,058.54	-1.92
Jakarta	Composite Index	394.68	387.38	+1.88
Wellington	NZSE-40	1,962.35	1,961.74	-0.98
Bombay	Sensitive Index	2,825.08	2,881.68	-1.96

Source: Telexkurs International Herald Tribune

Sources: Reuters International Herald Tribune

EXXON: Talking Takeover of Mobil

Continued from Page 1

The talks between Exxon and Mobil come with oil prices stuck near their lowest level in 12 years. The drop in oil prices has increased the pressure on oil companies to cut costs.

Exxon, which has a market value of \$176.7 billion, and Mobil, which has a market value of \$61.1 billion, both have histories of being fiercely independent, and both have already cut back on staff and made themselves lean to survive even a prolonged period of low oil prices. But this has been a particularly unsettling year for the oil industry, and there is little prospect that crude oil prices will recover soon.

Consequently, chief executives of most oil companies have had to swallow their pride and look for suitable partners. This summer, British Petroleum announced an agreement to buy Amoco Corp. for \$48.2 billion, creating the world's third-largest oil company and prompting analysts to predict even more widespread consolidation.

"It showed that megamergers are doable," said Adam Sieminski, an analyst for BT Alex. Brown.

He added, however, that any combination between Exxon and Mobil would not be an easy match because Mobil has been known as a proud company that has said in the past it would not want to merge. Exxon, Mr. Sieminski added, is a "well-run company that likes to grow its own businesses."

Mr. Sieminski said the heads of the two companies, Lee Raymond, the chairman of Exxon, which is based in Irving, Texas, and Lucio Noto, the chairman, president and

chief executive of Mobil, which is based in Fairfax, Virginia, were different personalities.

"It will not be easy," he said of combining the two companies, which have vast networks of refineries and gas stations that overlap in the United States and Europe.

Oil ministers attending a meeting in Vienna this week of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries said they would welcome an Exxon takeover of Mobil.

Kuwait's oil minister, Sheikh Saud Nasser al-Sabah, said an agreement "would make our jobs easier" as we would have to deal with fewer companies.

Exxon and Mobil are under pressure to find new sources of oil. Like other oil companies, they had hoped to quickly tap into the vast reserves of Russia. But even though they were prepared to spend billions, they have held back because of the political and economic crisis in Russia and great reluctance by Russian officials, and oil companies to give up control of vast fields.

Thus, they have had to fall back on exploration areas such as the deep waters in the Gulf of Mexico or in West Africa and parts of Asia. Such exploration is very expensive.

Analysts and investment bankers were split about the logic of a potential deal.

"Neither company is far," said Michael Mayer, an analyst at Schroder & Co. "Neither company says they are losing opportunities because of size."

Garfield Miller, president of Aegis Energy Advisors Corp., an independent investment bank based in New York, said: "If you asked me if Exxon needed to be bigger, the an-

More Kia Debt To Be Forgiven

Continued from Page 13

SEOUL — Creditors of Kia Motors Corp. and its Asia Motors subsidiary have agreed to forgive more of the failing companies' debts, satisfying a condition of their prospective buyer, Hyundai Motors Co., Hyundai said Thursday.

Creditors agreed to write off an additional 219.4 billion won (\$175.9 million) of Asia Motors debt, bringing the total write-off to 7.39 trillion won.

Hyundai won the bidding for Kia and Asia Motors in October. But after examining Kia's books, it found more debt than originally disclosed and asked for a bigger write-off.

Hyundai is to sign a formal contract to take 51 percent stakes in the companies next week.

swear is probably no. It is hard to say that there is anything in particular to gain."

In particular, Mr. Miller said, the two companies have enormous similarities in their domestic refining and marketing businesses.

"They really do overlap quite a bit," he said. "You really do wonder what is the benefit of all that redundancy."

But Amy Jaffe, an energy research analyst with the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, said the combination of the two companies would be logical, in part because it would give them greater influence in bidding for development projects in the Middle East. (Bloomberg, NYT, AP)

M&S: Sparks Fly at British Retailer

Continued from Page 13

it after leaving the London School of Economics 28 years ago.

According to analysts, who spoke on condition of anonymity, Mr. Oates — with only 14 years' seniority — was seen as a newcomer with a financial rather than a retailing background.

Marks & Spencer pioneered the sale of prepared up-market food in its stores, only to be challenged by other Main Street retailers such as Tesco PLC and Sainsbury PLC. It purchased Brooks Brothers in the United States, but the acquisition — apart from introducing button-down Oxford-cloth shirts to a British mass market — has lost money.

A global expansion plan valued at \$3.7 billion was announced last year, just as consumer demand was about to falter. Sir Richard insisted on a high level of British content in his products that made them expensive in continental Europe.

The troubles came to a climax this month when Mr. Oates, the deputy chairman, sensed that he would be passed over for promotion to the top job when Sir Richard divided his titles, an event initially scheduled for next May. According to British press reports, Mr. Oates appealed to nonexecutive board members for



Sir Richard has appointed an heir, settling a power struggle.

support. That brought Sir Richard flying back from a vacation in India to put down the revolt and defend his management style.

"I'm not an ogre," he said. "I'm blunt, and I'm competitive." Mr. Oates said Thursday that he was "disappointed to be retiring early from Marks & Spencer." And Sir Richard said it was "very sad that, as part of the modernizing of our top management structure, there is no longer a full-time role for Keith."

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Hitachi Posts Its First Loss

Continued from Page 1

TOKYO — Hitachi Ltd., the largest Japanese electronics company, reported its first group loss ever Thursday as prices for computer-memory chips crashed, consumers spent less on household electronics, and companies cut capital investment.

The company posted a group net loss of 142.2 billion yen (\$1.17 billion) for the six months that ended Sept. 30, reversing a profit of 37.67 billion yen a year earlier. The loss was heavier than the 130 billion yen loss that Hitachi predicted in September. Sales dropped 6 percent, to 3.90 trillion yen from 4.17 trillion yen.

Hitachi said that in addition to the drop in chip prices, intensified price competition in the liquid crystal display sector hurt profits. Cuts in private-sector capital spending also weighed on earnings, it said.

In Japan, weak consumer demand weighed on sales of home electrical products such as television sets and refrigerators. Home-appliance revenue fell 6 percent, to 455.6 billion yen.

Hitachi, whose sales amounted to almost 2 percent of Japan's gross domestic product in the year that ended March 31, forecast a full-year group net loss of 250 billion yen — its first since it listed its shares in 1949 — and acknowledged it would be difficult for it to return to profit in the year ending in March 2000.

Hitachi, which has more than 330,000 employees worldwide, still relies on the Japanese market for 67 percent of its sales.

"Hitachi's a bellwether for Japan, and like Japan it's been slow to recognize its problems," said Dan Lucas, an analyst at Tova Securities Co. "It's got problems across its product portfolio, and it's difficult to see much value there."

Hitachi shares fell 4 yen to close at 760 on Thursday.

"Hitachi needs to restructure totally to recover," said Yoshiharu Izumi, an analyst at Warburg Dillon Read (Japan) Ltd. "If Hitachi just 'half-reforms' itself, or takes its foot off the pedal in the next six months, then recovery will be even slower in coming." (Bloomberg, APX)

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SMALL CAP

Société d'investissement à Capital Variable,
Registered office: L-1840 Luxembourg, 7 Boulevard Joseph II,
R. C. Luxembourg B 33.256

MERGER PROPOSAL ANNOUNCEMENT

TAKE NOTICE THAT:

ESPRIT, an Investment Company with Variable Capital ("Société d'investissement à capital variable"), whose registered office is situated at 20 Boulevard Emmanuël Servais L-2535 Luxembourg (hereinafter called "the Absorbing Company") and SMALL CAP, an Investment Company with Variable Capital ("Société d'investissement à capital variable"), comprising a single open Sub-Fund, known as Small Cap European (hereinafter called "the Absorbed Sub-Fund"), whose registered office is situated at 7 Boulevard Joseph II L-1840 Luxembourg (together hereinafter called "the Companies") organized and existing as "société anonyme" and qualifying as société d'investissement à capital variable, entered on the list referred to in Article 72(1) of the Law of 30 March 1988 relating to undertakings for collective investment, subject to Part I of the Law of 30 March 1988 regarding undertakings for collective investments and fulfils the conditions imposed by the Council Directive of 20 December 1985 (85/611/EEC) and qualifying as undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities.

The Companies propose to merge their assets and professionalization with the intention of complementing their respective technical and financial activities, by combining all of these into ESPRIT which under its name shall carry out the business of the Companies and hold their assets and liabilities as at the Effective Date of the Merger.

ESPRIT will be a "société d'investissement à capital variable", structured as an umbrella fund with separate Sub-Funds each with its own distinct portfolio in terms of article 111 of the Law of 30 March 1988. At the Effective Date, ESPRIT will be comprised of the two following Sub-Funds: (i) ESPRIT - GLOBAL, holding all the assets of the Absorbing Company and (ii) ESPRIT - SMALL CAP (hereinafter called "the Absorbed Sub-Fund"), holding all the assets of the Absorbed Sub-Fund. The Boards of Directors of the Companies have declared that as of the Effective Date, the shareholders of the Absorbed Sub-Fund will receive in exchange for their shares, the same number of shares in the Absorbing Sub-Fund.

The Boards of Directors of the Companies (the "Directors") have approved the Merger with the objective that it should take effect on 28 January 1999 ("the Effective Date") subject to shareholder approval of the Companies being given at Extraordinary General Meetings of the Companies to be held on 28 December 1998.

The Merger Proposal duly signed on behalf of the Directors will be published in the Mémorial C on 27 November 1998. The invitations to shareholders for the Extraordinary General Meetings of the Absorbed Sub-Fund will be published in the Mémorial C, in the Luxembourgish Wort, in L'Echo de la Bourse and in De Financieel Economische Tijd on 9 December 1998 and on 18 December 1998.

The Board of Directors of the Absorbing Company has appointed Touche Ross Luxembourg as independent expert in order to provide a report on the Merger Proposal and the Board of Directors of the Absorbed Sub-Fund has appointed P.M.G. Audit as independent expert in order to provide a report on the Merger Proposal.

It is hereby agreed as follows:

- Subject to the approval of the shareholders of the Companies at the above-mentioned Extraordinary General Meetings of the Companies, the Absorbed Sub-Fund will transfer the whole of its assets and liabilities (its "net assets") at the close of business the day before the Effective Date, under section XIV sub-section 1 (fusion par absorption) of the Law of 1915, to the Absorbing Sub-Fund, subject to the condition that the rights attaching to their shares will be in all respects the same including the right to any future dividends.
- In consideration of the transfer of the net assets of the Absorbed Sub-Fund, the Absorbing Sub-Fund will issue to the shareholders of the Absorbed Sub-Fund one new share in exchange for each share of the Absorbed Sub-Fund surrendered and cancelled at Effective Date, in accordance with the exchange report (the "Exchange Report") described below.
- The method of the Exchange Report 29 January 1999 will be controlled by the independent experts under Article 266 paragraph 2 of the Law of 1915, as amended.
- The independent experts have expressed their mutual opinion on the Exchange Report and their respective reports are available for inspection by shareholders of the Companies at their registered offices one month before the date of the Extraordinary General Meetings of the Companies.
- Shareholders of the Absorbed Sub-Fund not wanting to change their shares of the Absorbing Sub-Fund are invited to redeem their shares without any charge, before the Effective Date.
- Any shares of the Absorbed Sub-Fund for which redemption requests have not been received before the Effective Date shall be deemed to have been exchanged for the same number of shares in the Absorbing Sub-Fund.
- Without any prejudice of point 4 above, after the Effective Date, bearer shareholders of the Absorbed Sub-Fund should deliver their bearer share certificate(s) to the registered office of the absorbing Sub-Fund in order to receive new bearer share certificate(s) of this Sub-Fund.
- In consequence of the transactions described above, the Absorbed Sub-Fund will no longer exist after the Effective Date and the shareholders of the Absorbed Sub-Fund will become shareholders of the Absorbing Sub-Fund.
- On the Effective Date all the net assets of the Absorbed Sub-Fund will be transferred to the Absorbing Sub-Fund.
- The rights attached to the new shares in the Absorbing Sub-Fund issued to the shareholders of the Absorbed Sub-Fund in exchange for their shares will be pari passu with and in all respects the same, including the right to any future dividends.
- The report of the Board of Directors and of the independent expert are and will remain available for inspection by the shareholders at the registered offices of the Companies one month before the date of the Extraordinary General Meetings of the Companies, with the audited annual report and accounts, and Directors' Report for the financial years ended 31 December 1995-1997 and the unaudited semi-annual accounts for the period ended 30 June 1998.

Agreed by and on behalf of the Board of Directors of Esprit and by and on behalf of the Board of Directors of Small Cap on 17 November 1998.

ESPRIT
Mr Michel DELAPLACE
Directeur
Mr Benoît DE HULST
Directeur

SMALL CAP
Mr Christopher MISSON
Directeur
Mr Hans SCHUTZ
Directeur

WORLD ROUNDUP

Tomba Is Indicted

SKIING The former skiing star Alberto Tomba and his father were indicted Thursday on charges of tax fraud, and the court set a trial date for March 2000.

The three-time Olympic champion, who announced his retirement from the slopes last month, is accused of failing to pay taxes on \$14 million in income from 1990 through 1996. Franco Tomba is his son's business manager. Tomba's mother was cleared of any wrongdoing.

None of the defendants were present in the Bologna courthouse where the indictment was made. Tax fraud is punishable in Italy by up to five years in prison and fines. (AP)

Malaysia Plans 2008 Bid

OLYMPICS The sports minister of Malaysia informed the International Olympic Committee on Thursday that Kuala Lumpur would be a candidate to be host of the 2008 Summer Olympics, the IOC said. Muhyiddin Yassin and his delegation held discussions with several IOC directors at the organization's headquarters on the procedures for going ahead with the bid, the IOC said in a statement.

Officially, bidding for the 2008 Games will not begin until next year, although Toronto and Osaka, Japan, have said they want to be host.

On Wednesday, Beijing announced it intended to bid for the games. Also expected to declare are Buenos Aires, Istanbul, and Seville, Spain. Also weighing bids are Paris and Cairo. (AP)

249 for West Indies

CRICKET South Africa challenged the West Indian batters to have them at 249 for seven Thursday on the first day of the first test. The game in Johannesburg marked the first time the two teams have met in a test in South Africa. The West Indies captain, Brian Lara, said he was happy with the number of runs his team scored. (AP)

Sampras Stays at Top For a Record 6th Year

No. 1 Crushes Kucera After Default By Injured Rios Assures Him of Title

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HANNOVER, Germany — Pete Sampras has his piece of tennis history, and a few other landmarks are within his grasp.

Considered by many to be perhaps the finest player in the history of the game, Sampras is notching up the numbers to prove it.

On Thursday, Sampras made sure of holding the No. 1 ranking for a record sixth consecutive year, a mark he feels may never be broken. He had been tied with Jimmy Connors, both finishing No. 1 for five straight years. Connors did it in 1974-1978.

Marcelo Rios gave a nice Thanksgiving present to Sampras when he withdrew from the ATP Tour World Championships because of a back injury. Rios, ranked No. 2, was the only man who could have threatened Sampras for the top ranking. Sampras entered the season-ending championship with a 33-point lead over the Chilean in the computer standings.

Sampras leads all active players with 56 career titles. Connors' record of 109 looks safe for a long time to come.

But Sampras could pull into a tie with Ivan Lendl on the all-time list by winning his fifth season finale. He won the World Championship in 1991, 1994 and the last two years.

Having won his first two round-robin matches, Sampras was already assured of a place in the semifinals before he played Karol Kucera on Thursday. A relaxed Sampras then demonstrated why he is No. 1, crushing Kucera, 6-2, 6-1, in 45 minutes. Kucera is No. 7 in the world and beat Sampras once in their three previous matches this year.

"It feels great," Sampras said. "I put a lot of work into the game. It's tough to stay on top so long."

Sampras' declared career goal is to break Roy Emerson's record of 12 Grand Slam titles. Sampras, 27, already has 11 with some years still ahead on the tour.

By his standards, Sampras has had a relatively modest year, winning four tournaments. That included his fifth

Wimbledon, but no other Grand Slams. When the year-end rankings are released Monday, Sampras will be at No. 1 for the 248th week — the third-longest reign behind Lendl (270) and Connors (268). Sampras could pass both of them next year.

In the first match Thursday, Tim Henman beat Alex Corretja, 7-6 (7-4), 6-7, (4-7), 6-2, to become the second player to advance to the semifinals.

The Spaniard dropped to 1-1 but remains alive under the round-robin format. Henman is 2-0.

Henman paid tribute to Sampras. "It's a phenomenal achievement," he said.

"It's tough for anyone else really to comprehend," he added, saying that he did not think the record would be broken "for a long, long time, if ever."

In the second match, Rusedski, an alternate, played Albert Costa, the second alternate who is ranked No. 14 in the world, and won, 7-6 (7-5), 6-1. The second Briton in the field needed 10 set points to win the first set, but breezed through the second.

Rusedski replaced Andre Agassi, who dropped out late Wednesday, also because of a back injury.

The \$3.5 million tournament brings together players with the best results over the year. But with Patrick Rafter and Richard Krajicek both withdrawing before the event because of injuries and Agassi and Rios out, four of the best players are missing.

Rios had to do better than Sampras in the tournament to have a shot at dethroning him. But Sampras scored quick and impressive victories in his opening matches. Rios had already denied his hopes of overtaking Sampras by losing his first match, to Henman.

Rios said that when he tried to practice Thursday morning, his back was "really sore."

"It made no sense to go out on the court and play two games," Rios said. "I am disappointed but that's the way it goes."

On Friday, Yevgeni Kafelnikov will battle Carlos Moya for a place in the



Tim Henman, who won his quarterfinal Thursday with Alex Corretja.

semifinals. In other matches, Rusedski plays Henman and Costa meets Corretja.

The outcome of those matches will determine the other two semifinals. With Henman already assured of a spot, Corretja and Rusedski are still in the running. Corretja will advance if Rusedski loses to Henman.

Agassi, after pulling out of the tournament, said that all he wants to do now is rest.

"I'm very sad I cannot finish the event," said the American, who was out of the top 100 and sweating in an unglamorous Challenger tournament in Las Vegas this time last year.

"I had the best treatment I could possibly get, but the injury is not getting any better," he said.

The former world No. 1, who hurt his back in a fall in practice Monday, retired during his opening match against Corretja, who was leading, 5-7, 6-3, 2-1. "I hit a swinging volley at 2-2 in the first set and something got stuck,"

Agassi said. "After that it was very painful, and I couldn't move properly."

He received injections on the eve of the match but that did not help.

"It's a spasm in the back, and it has tightened up," Agassi said, adding that he had five injections Tuesday as well as a lot of treatment, but the pain did not go away.

After slumping to 141st in the ATP Tour rankings in an awful 1997 season that saw him win only 12 matches, Agassi got back to work and rediscovered his appetite for the game in 1998. The 28-year-old, using his aggressive baseline game to the full, won five tournaments to rejoin the top five for the first time in more than two years.

"Now I need to go home and rest so that I can be prepared to play my best next year," he said.

While shining in many tournaments, hitting the ball as early and as hard as in his prime, the former Wimbledon champion failed to get past the fourth round in any of the Grand Slams. (AP, Reuters)

Yankees Keep Williams With 7-Year Offer Of \$87 Million

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It turns out that Bernie Williams didn't want to leave home after all. All it took to convince him was \$87.5 million.

Afraid their center fielder and cleanup hitter would defect to the arch-rival Boston Red Sox, the New York Yankees dramatically increased their offer to Williams, agreeing Wednesday to a seven-year contract that keeps the nucleus of the World Series champions together.

"It came down to the fact that I wanted to be a Yankee," Williams said. "I wanted to remain a Yankee for the rest of my career."

Williams' agent, Scott Boras, was pulled out of a meeting with the Colorado Rockies' chairman, Jerry McMorris, at Coors Field in Denver to take a telephone call from the Yankees owner, George Steinbrenner, to finalize the deal.

Hours earlier, it appeared that the World Series champions were on the verge of losing their Gold Glove center fielder, who had a seven-year offer from Boston thought to be worth at least \$77 million.

Preparing for life after Williams, New York was negotiating with Albert Belle, who would have replaced Williams' offense but brought his tempestuous personality to the tranquil clubhouse of the Yankees, who finished with a total record of 125-50 in the regular season and postseason, the most victories ever for a team in one year.

"I'm very happy the whole thing is over with," Williams said. "Now I can concentrate on my team defending the title."

Williams, 30, also had been courted by the Arizona Diamondbacks and two other teams that Boras wouldn't identify. Williams instructed Boras to give New York one last chance to re-sign him, and the pair traveled Tuesday to Tampa, Florida, to meet with Steinbrenner and other Yankees officials.

Before Tuesday, New York's only offer since the World Series was a \$60 million, five-year contract. Last winter, Williams rejected a \$37.5 million, five-year offer and agreed to an \$8.25 million, one-year contract.

"The bottom line is that the Red Sox drove the price up," Brian Cashman, the Yankees' general manager said. "It was a risk Mr. Steinbrenner was willing to take for the fans of New York to have an opportunity to witness what some say was one of the best teams ever to come back and try to do it again."

Williams' deal, which averages \$12.5 million per season, ties him for third with Boston's Pedro Martinez on the average salary list, trailing only Mo'Nique (\$13.3 million), who agreed to an \$80 million, six-year contract with Anaheim on Wednesday, and Mike Piazza (\$13 million) of the New York Mets.

Williams, who hit 339 last season with 26 homers and 97 runs batted in, has the second-most guaranteed dollars, trailing only Piazza, who has a \$91 million, seven-year contract with the Mets. The deal breaks down to a \$16 million signing bonus, a \$9.5 million salary next year and \$12 million in each of the following six seasons.

The Yankees have a \$15 million option for 2006 with a \$3.5 million buyout. If the option is exercised, the deal would be worth \$99 million over eight years.

Anyone for Pro Tennis? For Zimbabweans, First Find a Racket

By Christopher Clarye
International Herald Tribune

CHITUNGWIZA, Zimbabwe — The young tennis players were not in uniform. Some were in shorts and T-shirts; some in long pants and ragged, unbuttoned shirts. A few youngsters wore sneakers with designer logos, but the vast majority did not. Some wore rubber sandals; others leather moccasins. Some wore no shoes at all, relying on calluses on the bottom of their bare feet for padding as they dashed around the four concrete hard courts in the mid-afternoon African heat.

It is a long way from this dusty suburb of Harare to Hannover, the site in Germany of the elite, eight-player ATP Tour Championships this week. It is a long way in miles or kilometers; a loo way in means and attitude.

Spend enough time on the circuit and opulence begins to seem the norm: the German vehicles that silently and sleekly transport the players from lobby to locker room; the huge checks for the winners and the very respectable checks for the

losers. For successful professionals like Pete Sampras and Marcelo Rios, the big numbers start to become abstract: two thousand dollars here; a hundred thousand there. It is a matter of what one grows accustomed to, and here at these public courts in this densely populated African township, one is accustomed to making do with less.

"Of the kids who come to play here, only 3 to 5 percent have their own rackets," said Webster Maubunika, the 24-year-old residential coach at Chitungwiza. "A lot don't have any equipment at all." The minimum wage in Zimbabwe is 1,000 Zimbabwean dollars (\$27) per month, and a graphite racket costs 3,000 to 10,000 dollars. With school fees to pay and large families the rule in neighborhoods like Chitungwiza, it does not take long to do the math. "If we can't provide it, they probably can't buy it," said Paul Chingoka, president of Tennis Zimbabwe.

Maubunika juggles with a supply of 20 donated rackets in varying states of repair, which sounds like plenty until you realize that he normally teaches 50 schoolchildren at a time.

The four courts were built in 1995 with help from foreign benefactors, including the International Tennis Federation, but if they are full on this particular afternoon it is because of local initiative. Byron Black, Zimbabwe's top player, has come to give an exhibition and clinic. Black was born in Harare and grew up playing the game with his younger brother, Wayne, and even younger sister, Cara, on four grass courts and one banana-tree-encircled hard court built by his father, Don.

The Blacks are white, descendants of European immigrants. The sizable, mostly black, crowd watched the 27th-ranked Byron exchange groundstrokes with Chitungwiza's top prospects. "This is not a scene you would have seen before," said Chingoka, who is black. "Tennis used to be considered a white sport, an elitist sport, but things have changed in the last two to three years."

They have changed largely because Byron and Wayne have been successful in the Davis Cup, qualifying Zimbabwe for the 16-team World Group for the first time last year.

Tennis is growing in Zimbabwe, but which

direction it goes from here depends on Chingoka's ability to construct a durable base with the funds and national pride generated by the Davis Cup and on the ability of people like Maubunika to keep improving and nurturing the grass roots.

"These courts are full from the beginning of the day until the end, and I would like it to stay that way," Maubunika said. "My goal is to produce a couple of players who could end up on the Davis Cup team someday."

For Maubunika's pupils to have a chance to make the professional ranks, he will need more balls, more rackets and more tennis shoes. But his pupils will need more than that. "The odds are so long on making it when you come out of a little country like this," Byron Black said. "You need something extraordinary. We had our dad pushing us and believing in us. These kids will need something even stronger, because they are coming out of a culture that is so different than the one that is out there on the tennis circuit. Even if they have the talent, even if they somehow get the support, they will have to adapt to that culture."

SCOREBOARD

ICE HOCKEY

NHL Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	12	4	1	25	49	44
Pittsburgh	9	6	4	22	57	50
Philadelphia	9	7	4	22	52	43
N.Y. Islanders	10	11	0	20	57	57
N.Y. Rangers	5	9	1	16	49	56

NORTHEAST DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	12	5	2	25	48	42
Boston	9	7	5	23	55	42
Buffalo	9	4	4	22	49	41
Ottawa	9	6	3	21	55	46
Montreal	7	10	2	16	45	55

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	10	7	3	21	56	53
Washington	7	9	3	17	47	54
Florida	6	8	5	17	52	57
Tampa Bay	6	12	2	14	44	75

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	11	6	0	22	42	48
St. Louis	8	5	2	21	51	41
Nashville	8	11	1	17	49	62
Chicago	5	13	3	13	41	75

NORTHWEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Edmonton	11	5	1	23	63	58
Vancouver	9	11	1	19	62	58
Colorado	3	12	2	8	37	59
Calgary	4	12	2	10	36	63

PACIFIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Phoenix	11	4	3	25	60	54
Dallas	11	4	3	25	60	54
Anaheim	8	8	4	20	48	47
Los Angeles	4	12	2	10	45	59
San Jose	4	10	5	13	44	50

WRESTLING RESULTS

N.Y. Rangers

1-0-1-2	1-0-1-2
1-0-1-2	1-0-1-2

First Period: B-Ward 6 (Peca, Verduzco) 3.

Second Period: B-Ward 8 (Peca, Verduzco) 3. Third Period: B-Ward 8 (Peca, Verduzco) 3. Total: B-Ward 17, N.Y. Rangers 9.

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WRESTLING RESULTS

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SPORTS

Baggio Strikes to Lift Inter Milan

By Peter Berlin
International Herald Tribune

MILAN — The emotional tides in soccer matches run unpredictably and can turn swiftly.

Inter Milan was the inferior team for most of the match, indeed it played as if it believed it was the inferior team. Yet it was lifted to victory by just such a sudden change near the end of its match against Real Madrid.

In the euphoric final five minutes in which Roberto Baggio scored twice, Inter's 3-1 victory seemed the logical outcome.

The triumph, combined with Spartak Moscow's 0-0 draw with Sturm Graz, carried Inter to the top of the Champions League Group C. The six group winners and the two second-place teams with the most points will reach the final eight.

Inter provided stark proof that money may buy you the best players but it doesn't buy you a coherent team. In 1997, Inter broke the bank to add the best striker in the world, Ronaldo, to its existing attack of Ivan Zamorano, Youri Djorkaeff and Maurizio Ganz.

Along with Ronaldo, Massimo Moratti, the Inter president, has added Nwankwo Kanu, a Nigerian star, Alvaro Recoba, a young Uruguayan, and, this summer, Baggio and Nicola Ventola.

In one sense the approach has been justified. Kanu has still not fully recovered from heart surgery. Ventola is injured. Ronaldo has missed a string of games this season.

But star players do not like sitting on the bench, however well they are paid. Ganz defected to Inter's local rival AC Milan last season. How long will Djorkaeff, a star in the World Cup final in July, be prepared to sit and watch as he did Wednesday?

Great players are not interchangeable. Djorkaeff is different in style from Ronaldo, who is different from Zamorano, and so on. This is a team built to serve Ronaldo. Luigi Simoni, Inter's beleaguered coach, started Ronaldo, who had missed three games, for this crucial match.

For the first 50 minutes, most of the Inter team seemed content to wait for Ronaldo and Zamorano to win the game. The midfield and defense harried furiously when Real had the ball but froze when it won possession. Yet Ronaldo lacked his usual verve. Only Zamorano, playing against his former team, posed any threat.

Madrid looked menacing every time it counterattacked. Yet Real, which started the evening as group leader, did not seem to be in any hurry to press its advantage.

After 50 minutes, Inter attacked. While Zamorano searched for space energetically in the penalty area, his teammates timidly passed the ball, and the heck, 20 meters from goal. Finally, Ronaldo launched a hopeful shot. Fortune smiled on Inter and rewarded Zamorano for his efforts. The ball struck

the Chilean and deflected into the goal.

Now that it had to score, Real quickly did so. Clarence Seedorf's close-range header flew into the Inter net.

Real started to tease Inter. Gangs of Inter players vainly chased the ball, arriving just after it had already been

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

passed in the next Real player. As each pass was completed, the few hundred Real fans chanted "Ole" as though they were at a bullfight. Yet Real's strikers could not turn this domination into goals.

With 22 minutes to play, Simoni brought on the tricky Baggio in place of the aggressive Zamorano. It seemed a vain gamble. Yet something had changed. The goal had energized Ronaldo who started running at the Real defense. The players and fans who had been waiting for Ronaldo to lead them responded. Whenever it wrestled the ball away from Real, Inter hurled itself into attack. Suddenly a team that had been outplayed and out-thought was carried forward on a wave of emotional energy.

With four minutes to play, Baggio found space where none had existed before and thumped a shot into the Real goal.

Spartak Moscow 0, Sturm Graz 0 In Moscow, Graz gained its first point in Group C. Victory would have ensured Spartak of a place in the next round. Instead, it now needs to win in Madrid in the final round of matches in two weeks.

Ajax 0, Croatia Zagreb 1 Josip Simic, a substitute, scored the only goal of the game in Amsterdam as the Croatian champion kept alive its slim chances of advancing.

Olympiakos 2, Porto 1 Dimitris Eleftheropoulos saved a penalty as the Greeks beat Porto in Piraeus.

Porto was eliminated and

Olympiakos needs a draw in Zagreb in the last match to win Group A.

Rosenborg Trondheim 2, Athletic Bilbao 1 Jan Derek Sorensen scored twice as Rosenborg, the Norwegian champion, beat visiting Bilbao in Group B. The result eliminated the Basques. It also means Juveon, a finalist the past three years, must win its postponed match against Galatasaray to avoid early elimination.

Barcelona 3, Manchester United 3 Manchester United eliminated Barcelona in the second 3-3 draw between the two in Group D.

Bayern Munich 2, Borussia Dortmund 0 Janker and Mario Basler scored to lift the German champion to the top of Group D. It needs only a draw in Manchester in two weeks, but even if it loses should advance as one of the two best second-place teams.

Arsenal 0, Lens 1 The French Champion eliminated Arsenal in Group E. Michael Debeve scored the game-winner in the 73rd minute to put Lens top of the group.

Tony Vairelles of Lens and Ray Parlour of Arsenal were sent off after a scuffle in the final minute. Vairelles, Eric Szykora and Cyril Rool, who both received their second yellow card of the competition, will miss the French Champion's showdown with Dynamo Kiev in Lens in two weeks.

Dynamo Kiev 2, Panathinaikos 1 In Kiev, the ball bounced off the back of Angelos Basinas, an Panathinaikos defender, 11 minutes from time gave Dynamo victory over the Greeks and put it level on points with Lens.

Benfica 2, Kaiserslautern 1 The German champion lost in Lisbon but still ensured that it would win Group F when Jurgen Rische scored in the dying seconds. The goal gave Kaiserslautern a superior head-to-head record over the Portuguese team and guaranteed it a quarterfinal berth.

Progress on Drug Agency

The Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Plans are proceeding for the creation of an independent agency next year that will spearhead the fight against drugs in sports around the world, the project's coordinator said Thursday.

Dick Pound, vice president of the International Olympic Committee, said experts had reached a "high degree of consensus" on the structure, mandate and financing of the agency. Pound, who heads an IOC working group on the financial aspects of the anti-drug fight, said the agency could be up and running in early 1999 with initial funding of \$25 million.

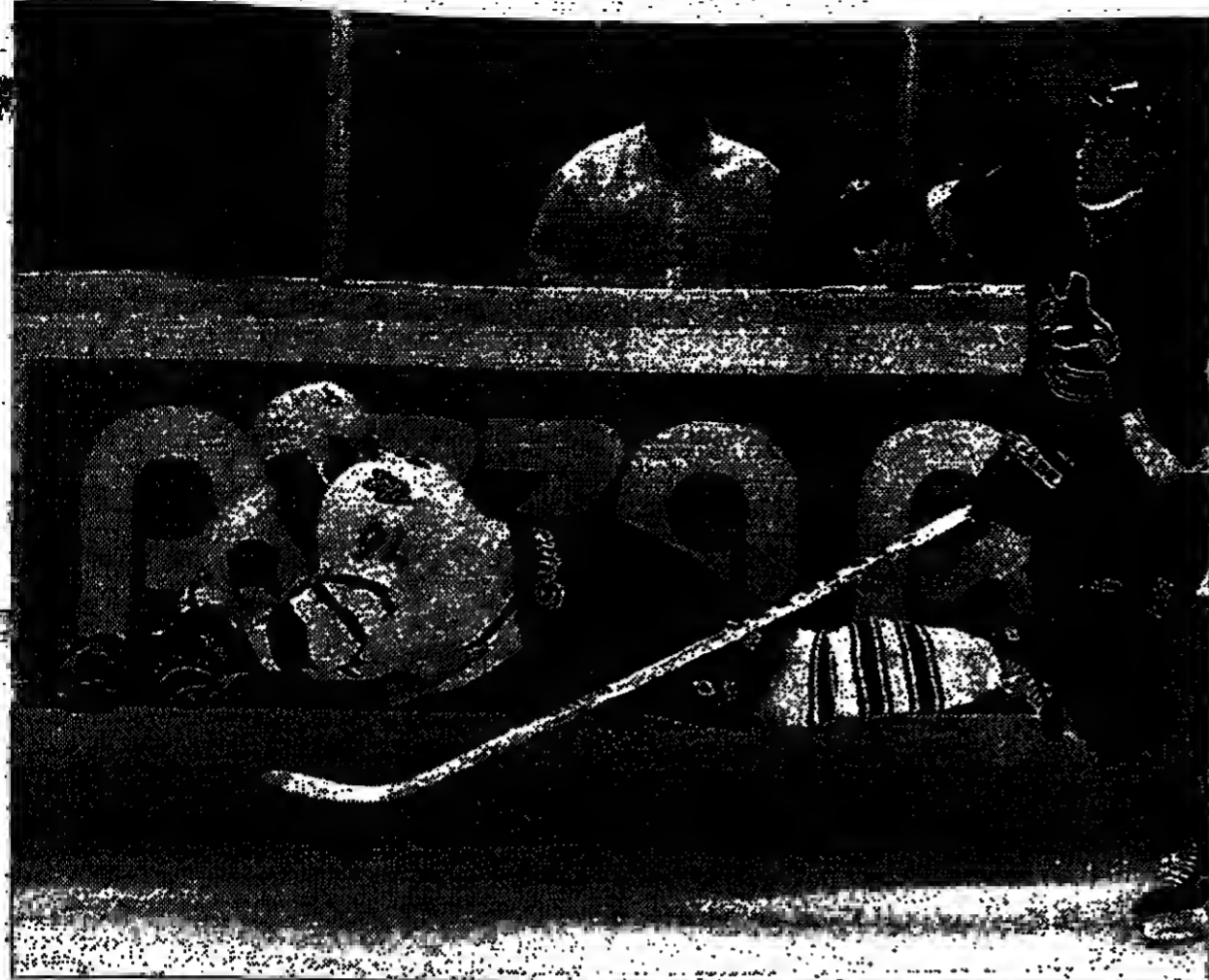
The IOC initiative, launched in the wake of the drug scandals that rocked

the Tour de France last summer, was to be discussed Friday at a meeting of Olympic leaders and international sports federations.

The IOC hopes the drug agency will get the final go-ahead at the world summit meeting on the issue in Lausanne beginning Feb. 2.

Pound said the agency would be an independent body run by representatives of the IOC, international federations, national Olympic committees and international governmental organizations. The private sector, including sponsors and drug manufacturers, would also participate.

"Everyone will have equal representation," Pound said from Montreal.



The Leafs' Sergei Berezin being pulled down by Canucks' defenseman Adrian Aucoin, who got a penalty.

Hurricanes Flail the Sharks, 3-0

The Associated Press

Keith Primeau scored twice and goal-tender Trevor Kidd returned to last year's form as the Carolina Hurricanes defeated the San Jose Sharks, 3-0.

The victory Wednesday night snapped a three-game losing streak for the host Hurricanes, while the Sharks remained the NHL's only winless team on the road, falling to 0-5-3 away from home.

NHL ROUNDUP

home. Kidd finished second in the NHL last season in save percentage and fifth in goals-against average, but was relegated to a backup role after a slow start and the excellent play of Arturs Irbes.

But Kidd shined in his first action since Nov. 11 — a span of six games. He was razor-sharp with his glove in making 36 saves to record his 14th career shutout.

Subway 4, Rangers 2 Petr Nedved returned to the New York Rangers in a five-player trade with Pittsburgh, but Dixon Ward and the host Buffalo Sabres spoiled the moment.

Darryl Shannon scored a power-play goal in the third period for the Sabres, unbeaten in their last six games at home

(5-0-1) and unbeaten in their last eight games against the Rangers (5-0-3).

Capitola 5, Penguins 4 Peter Boudra scored on a powerful slap shot from the top of the right circle with 3:48 remaining to give Washington a victory over visiting Pittsburgh.

Boudra had two goals and an assist for 502 career points and Chris Simon had a goal and two assists for the Capitals, who broke a two-game losing streak.

Bruins 1, Panthers 0 Sergei Samsonov scored a power-play goal late in the second period and goaltender Byron Dafoe made 26 saves as visiting Boston defeated Florida to extend its road unbeaten streak to five games.

Dafoe notched his fourth shutout of the season to tie for the league lead and the 11th of his eight-year career.

Red Wings 5, Mighty Ducks 2 Sergei Fedorov had a goal and an assist in a three-goal first period, leading host Detroit over Anaheim.

Daren McCarty, Tomas Holmstrom, Brendan Shanahan and Igor Larionov also scored goals and Larry Murphy added two assists for the Red Wings, who have won three straight after losing six of eight.

Maple Leafs 5, Canadiens 1 Toronto confirmed its domination of Western Conference teams, defeating visiting Vancouver in a battle of the two highest scoring teams in the NHL.

Islanders 4, Flyers 2 Tommy Salo stopped 44 shots as host New York snapped Philadelphia's four-game winning streak. The Islanders won despite managing only 14 shots to the Flyers' 46.

Predators 4, Flames 3 Tom Fitzgerald had the game-winner in the third period as host Nashville scored three straight goals to beat Calgary.

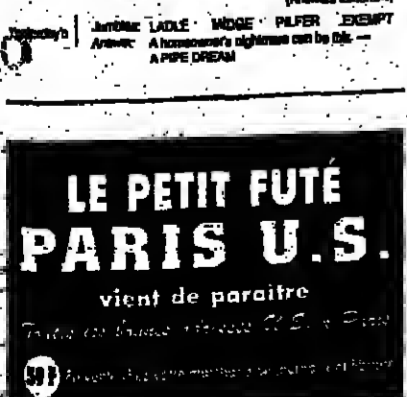
Fitzgerald fired a high shot from the slot off a pass from behind the net by Vitali Yachmenev 10:23 into the third.

Devils 5, Stars 2 Brian Rolston, Jay Pandolfo and Sergei Brylin all scored in the game's first 7:28 and visiting New Jersey held off a third-period Dallas rally.

The Devils entered the game in first place in the Atlantic Division and the Stars were in second place in the Pacific.

Oilers 3, Avalanche 0 Mikhail Shtalenkov stopped 26 shots for his fourth career shutout as Edmonton beat visiting Colorado.

DENNIS THE MENACE

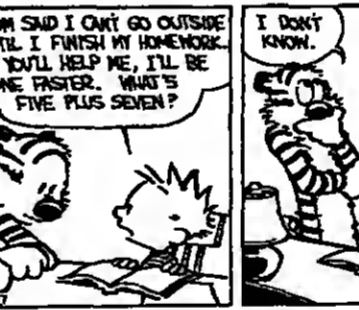


LE PETIT FUTE PARIS U.S. vient de paraître

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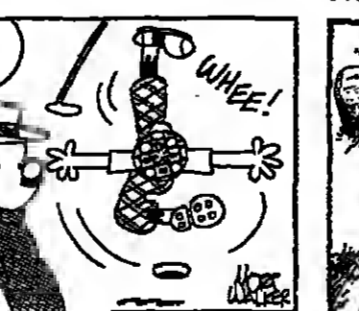
CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



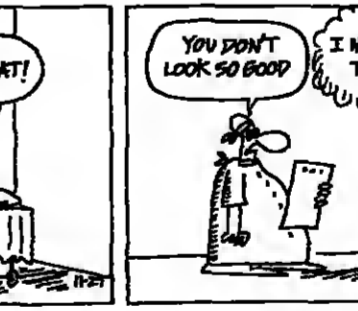
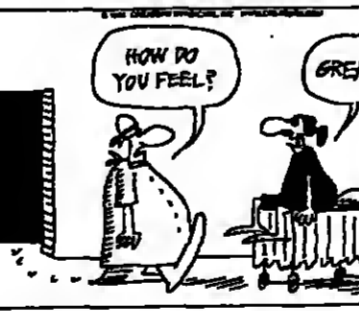
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POSTCARD

But Is It Art? Well, Sure

By Shirley Christian
New York Times Service

LAWRENCE, Kansas — Maria Elena Buszek, self-described nerdy graduate student who reads comic books, recalls having a drink in a Chicago bar when her eyes were drawn to a pinup girl tattooed on the arm of the bartender.

"He slumped my bourbon down in front of me, and I grabbed his wrist and said, 'That's a gorgeous Penny Girl.' He said, 'Everybody thinks it's a Varga,' and I said, 'No, there's a difference.'"

That difference has been a consuming interest since 1994, shortly after Buszek arrived at the University of Kansas on a graduate fellowship in art history and learned that the university's Spencer Museum of Art was the repository of a matchless collection of the original airbrushed watercolors of pinup art published by Esquire magazine.

The supposedly perfect females created by Alberto Vargas (editors at Esquire made him drop the "s" when signing his work because they thought it sounded like a possessive), George Petty and others accompanied American men through the depths of the Depression and to the battlefronts of World War II and Korea.

Bob Hope was once quoted as saying, "Our American troops are ready to fight at the drop of an Esquire."

The issue of how to handle a collection that has the potential to embarrass a serious art museum but is admired by some people as magnificent art produces consternation and a touch of defensiveness among Buszek's elders at the helm of the Spencer, people with a little gray in their hair and sensibilities shaped by the 1960s and '70s.

The question has come up off and on in the 18 years since Esquire donated its archives to the university, but it has acquired more currency with the rising prices such art brings at auctions and in galleries. Rough estimates indicate that the approximately 300 pinup pieces at the Spencer — about half of them by Vargas — may be worth \$10 million to \$20 million.

Museum officials ask themselves whether to seek grants for a major exhibition of the material with scholarly analyses and a hundred color reproductions. Should they lend it to commercial galleries or let a Japanese aficionado mount a touring exhibition and — Heaven forbid — make a profit for both himself and the museum? Or should they keep it tucked away in its temperature- and light-controlled vault, available only for scholarly study?

Stephen Goddard, senior curator of prints and drawings, with primary responsibility for the collection, has maintained a policy of making it available not only to scholars but also to those who make pilgrimages to this campus atop the bluffs of the Kaw River. "One family that came from California was in fashion design," he said.

"They were interested in Vargas art from the standpoint of shoes and apparel. A number of people are interested in the art for design reasons."

Others, he noted, are into nostalgia and admire the Esquire Collection as the inspiration for pinups painted on the noses of aircraft in World War II. They are especially thrilled by the original of Petty's "Memphis Belle," which adorned the noses of many bombers. One of the few times the Spencer lent its pinup art was for the opening of a new hangar at the Memphis Belle Museum.

"Some people see it as great art," Goddard said. "One man said, 'You want to tell me that Michelangelo was a great artist, but for me this is better.'"

Many artists drew pinups for Esquire after it began publication in 1933 as a magazine aimed at affluent men with a taste for stylish clothes and beautiful women, but George Petty emerged from the pack early. By 1940, Esquire thought he was demanding too much money, so it brought in Alberto Vargas, a Peruvian-born artist who had already made a name drawing the stars of Florenz Ziegfeld's shows. Vargas left Esquire in 1946, put the "s" back on his last name, and did illustrations for other media, including Playboy in the 1960s.

To the 27-year-old Buszek, Vargas Girls — she prefers them over the work of Petty — are nothing short of feminist icons. In her "third-wave feminist" view, pinups are "an all-purpose icon for the sassy, tough, punk-rock, sexy woman."

The pinup, she argues, was a major weapon in World War II, a "modern war goddess." Now she intends to write a dissertation analyzing and defending pinup art from a feminist perspective.

Goddard said: "It's art. There's no question about that. It's simply a matter of how one perceives it and wishes to interpret it."

Should they lend the collection out or keep it tucked away in its vault?

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An Adventurer's Quest for the Glorious

By Ken Ringle
Washington Post Service

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland — The problem wasn't getting iced-in north of the Arctic Circle 100 miles from the nearest human. Or seeing the sun disappear for three months and blizzards howl around his stranded boat. He had come for that.

Nor was the real problem the polar bear that came roaring into the cockpit or the carbon monoxide leak that left him partly blind or the paranoia that stalked him as he huddled, dark and alone below decks with the temperature minus-65 and his vessel sinking deeper and deeper into the imprisoning ice.

The real problem, says Alvah Simon, came with the spring thaw, when he found his vessel's hull still frozen to the bottom as melting snows raised water atop the ice higher and higher, threatening to sink him for good. "It was very hard to realize I had come all this way and gone through all that only to very possibly lose everything..."

Just as the sun was promising deliverance, he said calmly.

Obviously he didn't. He's right here talking, after all. But the maddening thing about "North to the Night," the gripping book describing his year-long adventure experiencing all the seasons in the Arctic ice, is how many more nail-biting incidents lie unmentioned between the lines.

After sailing his 36-foot (12-meter) sloop 8,000 miles (12,800 kilometers) from Colombia to Maine, for example, he realized he was less than halfway to his rendezvous with the Arctic. And he would be sailing most of the next 8,000 miles through fog, dodging convoys of ship-crushing icebergs.

There's the way he writes that the Inuit secure loads on their sleds with bindings made of bearded-seal hide because that's the only substance — including all our expensive synthetic fibers — that you can tie and untie easily when it's 65 below.

Talking to Simon is even worse than reading him. The Arctic trip

came after a slew of tales: His friend was murdered in the Philippines and he and his wife, Diana, had to flee to Borneo; they rounded Cape Horn and sailed through the isles of Indonesia dodging pirates to reach Africa and rebuild a Land Rover and take off alone across Namibia and Botswana for six months.

Alvah, why don't you just get a nice 9-to-5 job and a mortgage in the suburbs instead of courting death?

"Death," he says with complete seriousness, "is only one of many ways to lose your life."

Simon is not your normal adventurer, much less your ordinary author. He never wrote a book before, never really finished high school, never planned to make a living off his exploits and in fact has spent most of his 45 years running away from anything approaching commercial life.

For their Arctic expedition and other efforts to boldly go where few have gone before, he and his wife received Cruising World magazine's 1997 Award for Outstanding Seamanship. But unlike many authors and medal winners, says Jon Eason, his editor at McGraw-Hill, "Alvah is a very strong person but not in any sense an egotist."

Alvah Simon is one of the great and authentic adventurers of our time," the editor of Cruising World, Bernadine Brennan Berman, told a rapt audience of 200 in introducing his lecture and slide show last month at the Sailboat Show in Annapolis.

"It would be difficult to believe his story were it not for the astonishing pictures you'll see here."

That there are pictures of anything is largely due to Diana, an accomplished photographer. Simon himself spent 13 years shoe-stringing his way around the world via its more remote corners before venturing to the Arctic. He never went along with a video camera. "I wanted the experience for myself alone," he says. "I didn't have an agenda for it. It wasn't really even about me. It was about the incredible people I met along the way."



Diana and Alvah Simon aboard their sloop in the Arctic.

When he was younger, he adds, "I talked about adventure and tried to live it. And that turned into road trips to Mexico, living in the Sonora, and ended up with me running a sky-diving school in Montana."

Then, he says, a trip with his brother Jonathan to Central America exposed him to sailing and "there it all finally jelled. That was a life that was larger than life."

When they met in Australia, Diana gave him little bits that she had just spent 10 years sailing through Melanesia, trekking in Nepal, skirting firefights in Afghanistan and living on an Israeli kibbutz. "We spent Christmas together on the Daintree River searching for crocodiles, New Year's in the Atherton Tablelands looking for the duck-billed platypus. In gradual increments she moved aboard."

Together they went on to explore the Philippines and Borneo, Botswana and Namibia, Patagonia and Chile, Cocos Island and Golfo in Costa Rica.

But he had seen a poster that showed a sailboat in Antarctica surrounded by icebergs. "It took my breath away." He says it reminded him of Ernest Shackleton's incredible 1914 voyage to the Antarctic, which ended with the expedition ship crushed by ice and Shackleton sailing an open lifeboat across the icy Southern Ocean 800 miles to South Georgia Island (and then crossing a never-climbed mountain range) to save his men.

"I was green with envy that they lived in a day where you could have adventures that tested the limits of

human endurance," Simon says. Diana was not enthusiastic. But she yielded to the promise of intellectual discovery — the chance to study how the unforgiving environment shaped the psyche and the culture, as well as the bodies, of a people like the Inuit.

They sold their plywood sloop in Key West. A friend found them a 36-foot cutter in Colombia. It was made of steel and boasted the ideal combination of speed and strength necessary for dodging (and if it came to it, hitting) icebergs. They sailed it to Camden, Maine, and began winterizing both the boat and themselves and working to amass the mountain of equipment and supplies they needed.

On June 1, 1994, they slipped their dock lines and headed north. Unlike other polar explorers, Simon writes in "North to the Night," "We were not in search of glory, only the glorious."

They ended up in the Canadian Arctic, tucked into a glacier-fed inlet called Tay Bay north of Baffin Island. They planned to spend the full cycle of the seasons there together, frozen in. But then they learned by ham radio that Diana's father had in New Zealand was dying. He had three months to live and she was his only daughter.

Canadian Coast Guardsmen volunteered a helicopter to airlift her out. Simon was left to spend the long Arctic winter by himself, his sole company a feisty calico kitten named Halifax.

Simon's description of the horrors and glories of the Arctic and its creatures, and what they learned from both, held the crowd in Annapolis enraptured for nearly three hours last month. The author himself says he found what he went there to find and should now be content.

And by rights they should both have the polar regions out of their systems by now. But he is dreaming about South Georgia Island, where Shackleton ended up, "and now with the combination of this boat and our skills there is really nothing we couldn't do."

PEOPLE

THE actor Michael J. Fox says he has Parkinson's disease. He says he noticed a twitch in his left pinkie finger while shooting a movie seven years ago, and after undergoing tests, he received a diagnosis he has kept secret until now. "It was incomprehensible," he says in the Dec. 7 issue of People magazine. "The doctor said I would be able to function for years and years."

By talking about the disease, the 37-year-old Fox said he felt he could help himself, his family — he's married to the actress Tracy Pollan, and they have a 9-year-old son and 3-year-old twin daughters — and others with Parkinson's. Fox will continue to work on the ABC sitcom "Spin City," his spokeswoman said.

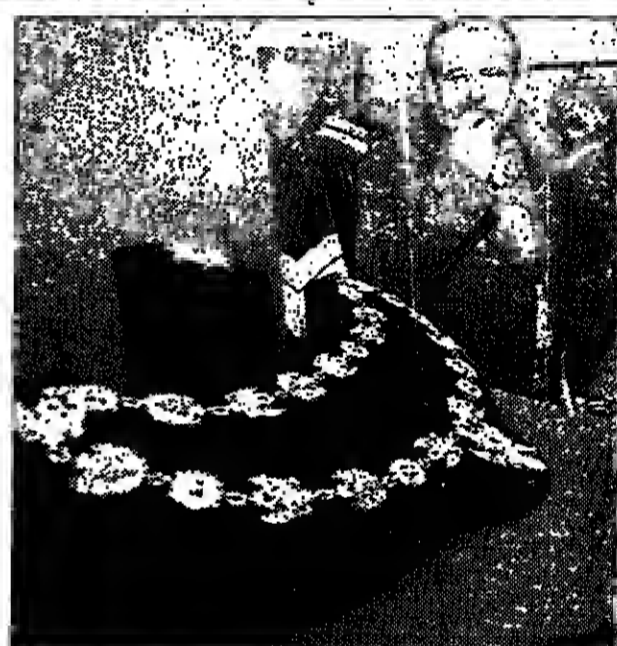
The American rapper Coolio appeared in a court in Stuttgart on Thursday to face theft and assault charges almost one year after his arrest for allegedly punching a saleswoman on a concert tour through Europe. Police officials contend that Coolio and six members of his entourage left a boutique in a Stuttgart suburb on Nov. 20, 1997, without paying for clothing worth \$2,000. The rapper is accused of hitting the saleswoman in the stomach when she confronted the group. Coolio, whose real name is Artis Leon Ivey Jr., won a Grammy for best rap solo in 1996 for "Gangsta's Paradise," which was featured in the film "Dangerous Minds."

Sean Connery, known as much for his suave portrayals of

James Bond as his fiery support for Scottish nationalism, will play the role of Saladin, the Muslim who led the 12th-century fight against the Crusaders in Jerusalem, in a forthcoming feature film. The Syrian-American director Mustafa al Akkad said that Connery would star in the film, which will have a budget of about \$100 million.

Michael Jackson has lost an appeal to restore ABC, Paramount Studios and a former TV reporter as defendants in his slander suit against a free-lance writer. Jackson sued Victor Gutierrez for \$100 million in 1995, claiming that Gutierrez told the "Hard Copy" reporter Diane Dimond that there was a video of Jackson having sex with a 13-year-old boy. Earlier this year, a Superior Court jury in Los Angeles ordered Gutierrez to pay Jackson \$2.7 million, but Dimond, ABC and Paramount Studios, which produces "Hard Copy," were dismissed from the lawsuit. The judge said they had acted without malice when they reported the writer's claims, and an appeals court has now upheld that decision.

Kate Mulgrew, captain of television's Starship Voyager, is engaged to Tim Hagan, a Cuyahoga County, Ohio, commissioner, the Cleveland Plain Dealer reported. The wedding will take place "as soon as she gets back from Delta Quadrant," joked Hagan. That would be during the show's hiatus next spring.



HIGH HONORS — A visitor to the Kremlin museum in Moscow examining an Order of Saint Andrew, in an exhibition devoted to the order's 300-year history.

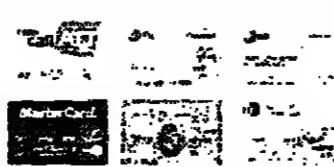


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